





# Khatami reappoints Iran's same first vice-president

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's new President Mohammad Khatami Monday named Hassan Habibi as first vice-president, a post he held under outgoing President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

But he kept his cabinet list under wraps, although Iran's ambassador to the U.N., Kamal Kharrazi, said he had been approached to become foreign minister.

The reappointment of Mr. Habibi, who acts as government spokesman, was announced by Iran's official news agency IRNA.

Mr. Khatami, who took the oath of office on Monday, must submit his list of ministers for approval by a parliament dominated by conservatives, whose hard-line Speaker Ali Akbar

Nateq-Nouri went down to a heavy defeat in the May presidential election.

Deputies in the 270-seat national assembly have already hinted at displeasure with Mr. Khatami's failure to consult them while forming his cabinet.

According to the constitution the president must submit the names of proposed ministers within two weeks of taking office.

Mr. Khatami hinted after Monday's ceremony that his list had not been completed. "When the list is complete I will present it to the Majlis," he told Iranian state television.

Mr. Kharrazi told Reuters he had been approached to head the foreign ministry, replacing Ali Akbar Velayati.

"There have been some discussions with me about this," Mr. Kharrazi said. Asked whether he had accepted, he said "but we have to wait until the cabinet is presented to parliament."

Mr. Kharrazi, who has a U.S. doctorate in management psychology, has been Iran's ambassador to the world body since 1990. He often issues statements from New York in response to reports about Iran in the U.S. media and remarks by American officials.

Jomhuri Eslami newspaper last week cast doubt on Mr. Kharrazi's ability to embark on "absolutely essential" fundamental foreign policy changes.

Iranian newspapers have published conflicting cabi-

net lists but several reported that navy chief Rear-Admiral Mortaza Shamkhani was expected to head the defence ministry.

In recent years Adm. Shamkhani has been in charge of the overhaul of the navy and deployment of Russian submarines and Chinese missiles and warships.

Several names have been published as possible replacements for Oil Minister Gholam Reza Azagadeh who has run Iran's oil industry since 1985.

Energy Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh has been widely tipped in Iranian media to succeed Mr. Azagadeh.

(See story on page 12)



A Palestinian woman expresses her anger Sunday after Israeli municipality workers demolished her family's house in the village of Al Ram, near Jerusalem. According to reports, the Israeli authorities considered the home an illegal structure (See story on page 1) (AFP photo)

## Suspects to plead not guilty of murder attempt of Kuwaiti MP

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The five suspects in the shooting of Kuwaiti member of parliament and anti-corruption campaigner Abdullah Al Naibari are to plead not guilty of attempted murder when the trial opens on Tuesday, their lawyer said Monday.

"The suspects intended only to stop Naibari by shooting the tyres of his car, not to kill him," Nabil Al Wugyan told Agence France Presse. "But due to a mistake in aiming, Naibari was hit."

Three Kuwaitis and two Iranians were arrested after Mr. Naibari was shot twice in the June 6 attack as he drove back to Kuwait City from his beach house. The liberal deputy's wife, Ferial Al Freih, was also lightly wounded.

Two of the Kuwaitis and the Iranians are being charged with the attempted murder of the couple and possession of illegal

weapons.

The third Kuwaiti is facing charges of providing shelter to the four and concealing the weapons used in the attack. All five are to plead not guilty to the charges, the lawyer said.

Mr. Wugyan said the weapons seized by police after the arrests were hunting rifles, except for the gun used in the attack on Mr. Naibari, which was equipped with a silencer.

The shooting triggered heated debate over whether the attack was a personal vendetta or politically motivated. The government angrily denied accusations of sheltering fugitives.

Supporters of Mr. Naibari, who is still undergoing hospital treatment in the U.S., said it was linked to his work against corruption, notably when he chaired a parliamentary committee for the protection of public funds.

The suspects are part of a "mafia" which embezzles public funds, according to some liberal deputies.

Mrs. Freih, in an article she penned for the newspaper Al-Qabas Monday, appealed to the authorities to ensure that justice is applied evenly in the Gulf emirate.

"Your conscience is being put to a delicate test which will not be passed simply by apprehending those who did it. Its real achievement is measured by the heroism of the confrontation of the roots of violence and corruption ...

"Applying the law to everyone by the decision-makers is an urgent need and is a safety net for us all," the deputy's wife said.

The defence lawyer has said the court is expected to call an adjournment of several weeks after the initial hearing, to allow the defence time to prepare its case.

## Members of Parliament boycott Knesset visitors

(Continued from page 1)

enlarged to be between peoples," Mr. Boim said.

Israeli Communist Party representative Saleh Salim urged Jordanian lawmakers to differentiate between those who are in support of peace with Arabs and those who want to destroy it (the peace process) in Israel.

"In Israel there are more than one million Arab citizens. There are Jewish groups in Israel that are opposed to the policies of the government of (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu. Putting all of us in one basket is a great mistake. This harms us," Mr. Salim said.

On bilateral relations, Mr. Tarif said he discussed with Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid the difficulties facing Jordanians and Palestinians who want to visit their kin in Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas.

He added that the delegation will brief the Knesset to help facilitate the issuance of visas by the Israeli embassy in Amman.

He said that his team will also work to help remove the obstacles that impede the movement of goods between the two countries.

On the peace talks deadlock, Mr. Tarif said that the majority of Israelis believe that there is no alternative to the peace process.

He urged Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu to work together to bring peace back on track.

He said His Majesty King Hussein said he was ready to visit Israel and the Palestinian self-rule

areas to ease tensions.

Mr. Tarif announced that a group of Israeli Arab MKs will visit Syria this week as part of a large Arab-Israeli delegation.

"We have been invited as representatives of the Israeli Arab community to meet with President (Hafez) Assad. We hope that we will be a bridge for peace between Israel and Syria," he said.

Mr. Tarif said the team will deliver a message to the Syrian leadership but declined to elaborate.

The visit of the Arab-Israeli delegation to Damascus was welcomed by non-Arab MKs, but they said that the delegation to Syria should include Jewish Israelis as well.

"In fact a delegation of the Arab-Israeli Knesset members to Syria is an important event, but it is not important enough because President Assad must realise that in order to have peace with Israel, he cannot do it with Israeli-Arabs, which are a minority in Israel. If he wants to make peace he should invite Israeli Jews who are the majority," said Avraham Poraz, an MK representing the left-wing Merez Party.

Mr. Tarif said the visit to Syria was arranged directly by a Syrian "person" who arrived in Israel and invited the delegation. He did not disclose the name of the Syrian mediator.

## Turk army sacks Islamist members

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's powerful military said Monday it had sacked 76 members of the ranks for disciplinary reasons, apparently a move by the secularist commanders against Islamist activists in the ranks.

"Seventy-six personnel were dismissed from the Turkish armed forces after evaluation of their disciplinary and moral positions," state-run Anatolian news agency reported the Supreme Military Council as deciding after a four-day meeting.

Earlier, mass-circulation daily Milliyet said 73 of the officers and non-commis-

sioned officers were being sacked for links to Islamist activism.

The decisions were signed at military headquarters by Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, who chaired the four-day council meeting five weeks after coming to power at the head of a right-left coalition.

The army, which regards itself as the guardian of Turkey's secularist tradition, had sacked dozens of officers at council meetings in previous years.

The former Islamist-led government had collapsed after pressure from the mili-

tary to introduce measures aimed at curbing the role of religion in public life.

The council also appointed new generals to lead the army, navy and air force after the retirement of the existing leaders.

It said it had appointed Huseyin Kivrikoglu as army chief to replace Hikmet Koksal.

Salim Dervisoglu was selected to take over as the navy chief from Guven Erkaya and Ilhan Kilic was chosen to replace Ahmet Corekci as head of the air force.

## S. Arabia executes Nigerian and Saudi for drugs, murder

RIYADH (AP) — A Saudi man convicted of murder and a Nigerian man convicted of drug smuggling were beheaded in Saudi Arabia Monday.

The beheadings raised to 75 the number of people executed in the kingdom this year.

Mohammad Ben Rafan Al Enizi, a Saudi citizen, was found guilty of fatally shooting fellow tribesman Mohammed

Ben Samir Al Enizi after an argument and executed in the capital Riyadh, an interior ministry statement said.

Idriss Mohammed Ali, a Nigerian, was found guilty of smuggling an undisclosed amount of heroin and executed in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, the statement said.

Last year, Saudi Arabia executed 71 people.

The kingdom's Islamic

courts impose the death penalty for rape, murder, drug trafficking and armed robbery. People convicted of those crimes are beheaded in public with a sword.

Human rights groups have criticised the executions on grounds that they follow trials in which suspects are not well represented by lawyers and are denied due process, such as legal appeals.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
15:00 ..... Square One TV  
15:30 ..... Dog House  
15:35 ..... French Programmes  
16:00 ..... Album Show  
16:10 ..... French Programmes  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:35 ..... Coach  
20:00 ..... Tilt  
20:30 ..... Encounter  
21:10 Doc. — Nature of Things  
22:00 ..... News in English  
23:30 ..... West Beach  
23:15 ..... Mini-series

### PRAYER TIMES

04:21 ..... Fajr  
05:48 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
12:42 ..... Dhuhr  
16:22 ..... Asr  
19:35 ..... Maghreb  
21:02 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church  
Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel.  
661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751  
Armenian International Church  
Tel. 5516245  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932  
Church of Nazarene Tel.  
675691  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Fine weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly below normal and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be hot and dusty, winds northwesterly moderate to active, and seas calm.

Amman ..... 17/28

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba ..... 25/37  
Deserts ..... 16/33  
Jordan Valley ..... 24/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 29, Aqaba 36 Humidity  
readings: Amman 50 per  
cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

USEFUL  
TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Al Masri ..... 675485  
Dr. Youssef Rashid ..... 875792  
Dr. Jum'a Abu Diab ..... 758848  
Dr. Khalil Jhali ..... 740740  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778335  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qam ..... 281484  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Hakaseh ..... 982799  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Dept ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue  
..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111,  
637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department  
..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints  
..... 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints  
..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory  
assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs  
661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority  
..... 815615  
Electric Power Company  
636381  
RJ Flight Information  
0853200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre  
813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 644281/6  
Alkileh Maternity ..... 642441/2  
Jabal ..... Amman Maternity  
..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital  
602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart  
and Special Surgery ..... 865199

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital  
..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital  
..... (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital  
..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital  
00:55 ..... Bucharest (RO)  
01:25 ..... Jakarta (GA)  
03:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
04:25 ..... London (BA)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA  
AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:05 ..... Sarau (RJ)  
08:05 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
10:25 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:40 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
17:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
17:30 ..... London (RJ)  
17:40 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
17:40 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:00 Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)  
22:30 ..... Madrid (add) (RJ)  
01:30 ..... Madrid (RJ)  
03:15 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights  
09:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
13:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
14:30 ..... Dubai (EK)  
16:40 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
18:05 ..... Kiev (6U)  
21:30 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
22:50 ..... Aden (IY)

23:35 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
23:45 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
00:55 ..... Bucharest (RO)  
01:25 ..... Jakarta (GA)  
03:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
04:25 ..... London (BA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
08:45 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
10:05 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
10:50 ..... Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
18:20 ..... Tel Aviv (RW)  
19:30 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
22:20 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
23:50 ..... Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Madrid (add) (RJ)  
12:25 ..... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:40 ..... Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Paris (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:45 ..... Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
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10:30 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
17:45 ..... Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
18:55 ..... Tel Aviv (RW)  
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22:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)

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14:05 ..... Madrid (RJ)  
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21:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
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WHAT'S  
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JERASH FESTIV  
Family the New York Broadway E  
at 8.30 p.m.  
Dance Show of Anticris Steps  
announced by the Iraqi National Ba  
at 8.30 p.m.  
Performance by the Egyptian Tanbou  
at Light Theatre at 8.30 p.m.  
Dance by the students of the Al  
at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8  
Local performance by Kuchipudi  
at Jordanian hands as well as an f  
at the main square at 7.00 p.m.  
Sale of handicrafts and sculptures  
LECTURE  
Local Crimes and Resistance to Q  
at the Arab Forum, Shmeisani  
FILM  
Salon of a Lesser God" at the B  
at 6.00 p.m.  
EXHIBITIONS  
Geography exhibition by Claudia Ped  
and Crafts Centre/Artisana, Jabal  
at Tel. 647856 until Aug. 16.  
The East Exhibition of Plastic and I  
at the Amman International Exhi  
at Aug. 7.  
Source exhibition by Ibrahim Dayya  
at Aug. 7.



## CEDAW impact debated in conference

By Rana Hussain  
London Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The impact of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Jordan was Monday reviewed in a day-long workshop, in which three major themes were discussed with working groups.

Jordan signed the convention in December of 1981, but CEDAW was only endorsed by Parliament in August of 1992 with reservations on three articles: one concerning equal rights for men and women with respect to the nationality of their children and offering the freedom to choose their residence; the second would grant women equality in marriage and its dissolution as well as parental responsibility and finally the right to choose a family name and profession.

The reservations working group supported the government's reservations in not offering Jordanian citizenship to offspring of a Jordanian woman and foreign man, but decided to add an article which would allocate these children the right to permanent residence in the Kingdom.

The working group decided in favour of a woman's right to travel and establish residence, "if it is

a condition in the marriage certificate.

The group, which discussed the legislation, agreed that each article which requires amending first be reviewed by the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW) legal committee.

The awareness-raising group recommended publishing a summary of the material and organising lectures on the convention, to be presented to governmental and non-governmental organisations, printed in the media, and for the public sector, schools and universities.

The group also recommended forming pressure groups to convince decision-makers to support CEDAW articles, and organise awareness programmes for both men and women, regarding women's rights.

"These recommendations will be referred to the JNCW for revision," said Abia Amawi, senior programme officer at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

"Hopefully, this workshop and its resolutions will encourage various institutions to jointly work to facilitate the implementation and dissemination of the convention," Dr. Amawi told the Jordan Times.

During the opening ceremony, Jorgen Lissner, U.N. resident coordinator in Jordan, stated the workshop will "hopefully clarify in which way the United Nations agencies in Jordan can best support ongoing national efforts, within Parliament, the Jordanian National Committee for Women, and elsewhere, to safeguard the legal rights of women in Jordan."

"We see CEDAW, which Jordan has ratified and accepted in principle, as the most suitable instrument for women and the society as a whole," Mr. Lissner said.

Dorrit Alopaeus-Stahl, UNICEF representative to Jordan, said her agency found that, in the Kingdom, while gender disparities have largely disappeared in terms of health and education, gender stereotyping, discriminatory practices and traditional attitudes remain widespread.

"These practices and attitudes are singling out women as inferior to boys and men, and restricted them," Ms. Alopaeus-Stahl emphasised. "If we do not want to waste the energy, skills, and ambitions of half of the population, we must not let gender-based restrictions prevail."

The morning session included two papers which were presented by Lami Nasser, UNICEF consul-

tant, on "Background, History and Content of CEDAW: A General Overview," and a study on "CEDAW and Jordan: Reservation to CEDAW and the Regional Situation — A Comparative Study."

Ms. Nasser's study of CEDAW and Jordan, prepared in 1996, aimed at raising public awareness of CEDAW, formulating procedural recommendations for ending unjustifiable discrimination against women in Jordan, leading ultimately to withdrawal of reservations regarding some articles in the convention.

The study recommended conducting a survey, to be executed by professional researchers, on all forms of discrimination against women in Jordan. Further, the study called for adopting a CEDAW promotion strategy, including a series of training workshops to educate women-related NGOs about the convention and to translate the final draft of the project's document into Arabic in order to successfully disseminate it to women here.

The third paper, presented by Rehab Qaddoumi, rapporteur of the legal committee at the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW), exhibited the achievements of JNCW legal committee.

Ms. Qaddoumi reviewed some of the laws which previously discriminated against women and were recently amended in their favour.

Such laws, she maintained, included allowing widows or divorced women to obtain a family book, as well as a labour law which lengthened the amount of time allotted for maternity leave and stipulated that employers set up day care programmes in workplaces in which over 20 women work.

However, Ms. Qaddoumi described gaps in several laws, such as the Civil Law and Penal Code.

"We studied some specific articles and formed a draft law which is currently under study by the Council of Ministers," she said.

Dean of the Law School at the University of Jordan Dr. Mohammad Ghazawi presented a paper entitled "Jordanian Legislation Concerning Women — Between Theory and Practice."

The one-day workshop, held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), was organised by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender, which is comprised of nine U.N.-based agencies: ESCWA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNRWA, WFP, and WHO.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday meets with visiting Speaker of the Yemeni Consultative Council Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai (Petra photo)

## Premier meets with Yemeni official

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday met with visiting Speaker of the Yemeni Consultative Council Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani to discuss the upcoming meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee, due to convene in Sana'a soon.

The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations and ways to promote cooperation in parliamentary fields.

They then covered the general situation in the Middle East, peace process developments and intra-Arab affairs.

Dr. Majali expressed his satisfaction with relations between Yemen and Jordan.

The meeting was attended by Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai as well as the Yemeni delegation accompanying Mr. Abdul Ghani on his visit to Jordan.

Earlier, Mr. Rifai received Mr. Abdul Ghani and the two reviewed parliamentary

life in the two countries and the general political situation in the region.

Mr. Abdul Ghani explained that the 59-member consultative council, whose members are appointed by the president, works jointly with the elected national assembly.

He later told reporters that the two sides exchanged views on electoral issues as well as cooperation between the consultative council of Yemen and the Jordanian Senate.

Mr. Abdul Ghani conveyed a message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to His Majesty King Hussein.

He also met Monday with Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Snour and Parliament members.

Mr. Snour described Jordanian parliamentarians as interested in maintaining visit exchanges with their Yemeni counterparts in order to promote parliamentary life and protect both countries' national interests.

## 'Contaminated poultry sold to Amman, Zarqa'

ZARQA (Petra) — The Ruseifah Public Health Committee Monday closed certain poultry slaughterhouses in Hizeen Camp for violating public health regulations.

Head of the Committee Thamer Majali, affirmed that various persons were either raising poultry in their houses or converting their homes into slaughterhouses.

They then butchered fowl there for later sales to restaurants in Amman and Zarqa, he stated.

"This poultry is unfit for human consumption as smallpox and other diseases have been found among samples of the flocks," Mr. Majali affirmed.

Some foreign labourers have been illegally work-

ing at these slaughterhouses, he added.

"We found foreign labourers working without obtaining the required permission from the ministries of labour and health," Mr. Majali confirmed.

He described owners of these houses as purchasing expired bags of potato chips to use as fodder for these animals which, he affirmed, leads to serious disease.

The ministries of health and medical care and agriculture emphasised increasing control over poultry farms and slaughterhouses.

Mr. Majali described the situation as "under control" and cautioned citizens through the mass media of such violations by persons whose only goal is profit.

## Minister urges agricultural protection

RAMTHA (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan Monday urged measures for the protection of agricultural lands, surrounding the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) near the northern border town of Ramtha.

He urged authorities responsible for urban planning to stop random, disorganised construction of homes in that area.

During a visit to the university, the minister met with JUST president Sa'd Hijazi and local officials in charge of urban planning and land zoning operations.

Mr. Kreishan stated that productive agricultural land should be protected, while random, disorganised construction operations extending

towards the university due to rapid population growth there.

Dr. Hijazi suggested that plans for future expansions consider archaeological site protection.

The area extending from Ramtha and the university has been dotted with industrial installations and residential areas have begun to shelter various public utilities, he said.

He called on authorities to implement a comprehensive plan to organise the situation.

The minister, accompanied by Dr. Hijazi, toured the campus and inspected construction work on the King Abdullah Hospital to be utilised for the training of JUST doctors.

It described disorganised construction operations as extending from Ramtha

towards the university due to rapid population growth there.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ministries to close Aug. 11

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries and public institutions will close Monday, August 11 on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne, according to a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

### Mulki invited to Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki Monday received an invitation from his Syrian counterpart, Mohammad Imadi, to participate in the Damascus International Exposition to be held August 28.

### Minister receives officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Fawaz Tarawneh Monday met with the ambassadors of South Africa and Germany.

### Masri meets with expats

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri Monday received a number of Jordanian young women currently living abroad. Dr. Masri briefed these women on the ministry's role and duties to help Jordanians living abroad through the work of cultural attachés.

### Health cooperation covered

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi Monday received the Yemeni Al Thawra Hospital Director General Abdul Aziz Siyaghi. They reviewed scopes of cooperation.

### CDD discusses cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director General Deeb Ma'ani Monday received Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Lui Baolai. The two discussed civil defence cooperation.

### Electoral committee urged

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid Monday called upon governors to take appropriate measures in order to facilitate general elections to be held next November. During a ministry meeting with the concerned governors, Mr. Rashid suggested the formation of a special committee to sponsor the general elections.

### U.S. party leader to visit

AMMAN (Petra) — U.S. Republican Party Leader Jim Nicholson will arrive here next Thursday at the head of a Jewish international coalition party delegation. The delegation will hold talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Fawaz Tarawneh and other senior Jordanian officials.

## Travel agents to cover tourism in meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Jordan Travel Agents Association (JTAA) is to convene Thursday in Aqaba to discuss current difficulties facing the tourism industry, JTAA President Lami Haddadin announced Monday.

The meeting will focus on the cities of Aqaba and Petra, he added.

A main topic on the agenda will be methods of welcoming tourists who arrive for a stay not exceeding one day and ways to increase the duration, Mr. Haddadin affirmed.

The meeting is slated to be attended by representatives of the estimated 400 tourist and travel agencies in the Kingdom.

The association is dedicated to developing well-defined programmes and plans for the promotion of both domestic and foreign tourism, according to Mr. Haddadin.

It also attempts to identify and overcome obstacles which impede tourism, he added.

The meeting's main aim is to prevent rivalry among Jordanian tourism offices while encouraging cooperation in attracting more visitors to the country throughout the year, according to the JTAA president.

The board will meet with government officials in Aqaba to discuss ways of facilitating tourism and tourism investments, he added.

The JTAA plans to organise a national conference on tourism and its marketing in the near future, Mr. Haddadin confirmed, and concerned parties in the public and private sectors will be represented at the meeting designed to develop a national tourism strategy at the domestic, regional and international levels.

Strategies for stimulating tourism entail the training of persons employed in the tourism industry, reducing the cost of tourist services, and highlighting the historical and cultural importance of Jordan, he explained.

Plans also provide for environmental protection around tourist and archaeological sites as well as encouraging the private sector to increase contributions towards national tourism development, Mr. Haddadin asserted.

Future projects include publishing tourist guide books in foreign languages, improving tourist service standards, creating special committees to develop and facilitate services at airports, border posts and rest houses, preparation of an integrated plan for marketing Jordan during the next decade, launching international "Jordanian tourism" weeks, opening tourist information bureaus in various countries, focusing on domestic tourism, intensifying media efforts to encourage tourism in Jordan and abroad, inviting students between 16 and 20 years of age to make group visits to various tourist sites, and developing recreational and work camps near archaeological sites, he stated.

Promoting the work of tourist guides, improving tourist transport services and placing signs on roads, directing visitors to archaeological sites are all essential steps to ensure these plans' success, Mr. Haddadin concluded.

## 'Government will support Petra Regional Council'

PETRA (Petra) — The government will support the activities of the Petra Regional Council (PRC) as well as its endeavours to organise tourism activity as the city has become an international tourist attraction, Minister of Public Works and Housing Naser Lawzi affirmed Monday.

In a meeting with PRC Director General Kamel Mahadin and local officials, Mr. Lawzi described the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as eager to implement projects for the improvement of infrastructure services.

Work on the Taybeh-Wadi Musa road, slated to cost JD 3.7 million, is due to be completed in May 1998, he added.

The two-lane road will measure seven kilometres in length and 7.3 metres in width and is partially completed, according to the minister.

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing has just announced a JD 1.7 million tender for services linked to this road, including sewage, water, electricity and telecommunications networks.

By August 15, the ministry will announce a tender for the construction of the Wadi Musa hospital at the estimated cost of JD 5 million, Mr. Lawzi stated.

Designs for the project have already been approved, he added.

The Ministry of Public

Works and Housing has just announced a \$30 million tender for a water network for the Wadi Musa region.

Mr. Mahadin reviewed past PRC projects including retaining walls, culverts, roads and other vital projects within the Petra region.

Mr. Lawzi inspected roadwork and was briefed by engineers and officials on progress therein.

He later inspected work on the 71-kilometre Ras Naqab-Aqaba road, undertaken by an Italian construction firm at the cost of JD 35 million provided as a joint loan from the World Bank and the European Investment Bank.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### JERASH FESTIVAL

\* Concert by the New York Broadway Duo at the North Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

\* Yungo Dance Show at Artemis Steps at 8:30 p.m.

\* Performance by the Iraqi National Band at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

\* Performance by the Egyptian Tanbura Band at the Sound and Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

\* Ballet dance by the students of the Ahliyyeh School for Girls at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

\* Musical performance by Kuchipudi dance group of India and Jordanian bands as well as an Egyptian circus show at the main square at 7:00 p.m.

\* Display of handicrafts and sculptures at Zens vault.

### LECTURE

\* "Political Crimes and Resistance to Occupation," by Hani Dahleh at the Arab Forum, Shmeisani at 7:00 p.m.

### FILM

\* "Children of a Lesser God" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Photography exhibition by Claudia Pedotti at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana, Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 647858) until Aug. 16.

\* Middle East Exhibition of Plastic and Rubber Industries, at the Amman International Exhibit, Marj Al-Hamam, until Aug. 7.

\* Sculpture exhibition by Ibrahim Dayyat at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 7.



## Battle for Sri Lanka highway becomes dead-end for troops as well as Tigers

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Nearly 1,000 people have been killed in Sri Lanka in less than two months as troops and Tamil rebels battle for a key highway that is increasingly becoming a dead-end for both sides, officials said Monday.

The most ferocious fight so far came late Friday when 267 were killed, by official count, as the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked military defences near the northern town of Olanthai.

On June 11, the Tigers pulverised an army staging post, escaped with several heavy guns and vowed to resist the military operation codenamed "Sure Victory."

The military has moved only 16 kilometres so far. The "sure victory" offensive has turned into sure resistance and the army has admitted losing 461 troops — around 30 soldiers per kilometre gained.

The LTTE has the capability to stage a few more do-or-die attacks," a Defence Ministry spokesman here said. "We are now quite used to their tactics and Friday's attack went terribly wrong for them."

For its part, the LTTE said in a statement from their London office that they lost 126 of their fighters in the seven-hour battle that lasted

till dawn Saturday and claimed killing over 100 government soldiers. "Many highly sophisticated weapons and large stocks of ammunition were captured. One hundred and twenty six LTTE fighters lost their lives," the LTTE statement said.

The Defence Ministry said it handed over 39 Tiger bodies to the International Committee of the Red Cross Sunday to be turned over to the rebels. The military has claimed to have killed 200 rebels for the loss of 67 troops.

Friday's attack on the army defences was a carbon copy of two previous strikes on the same column of troops trying to open the road to the northern peninsula of Jaffna which was captured from the rebels in December 1995.

However, in the previous attacks, the LTTE admitted losing not more than 85 in each, indicating that the latest battle was the most expensive for them.

Defence sources said there could be more Tiger attacks on the military column before monsoon rains set in by September or October. Rains usually make it difficult for both sides to keep up intense battles.

Asian diplomats said that the army had been keen to

open the Jaffna road before November when the government hopes to present a radical power-sharing peace plan before parliament. If the highway is open to Jaffna, which is currently supplied only by air and sea because the main land access is held by the Tigers, the guerrillas will be confined to the jungles in the island's north-east.

The Tigers have already rejected President Chandrika Kumaratunga's devolution package which seeks to turn the country into a federal state, in all but name, in exchange for ethnic peace.

Sri Lanka's main opposition party is meeting Monday to discuss the proposed amendments to the country's election system in a new constitution, a party official said.

The meeting of United National Party (UNP) lawmakers is seen as crucial because it could reflect its thinking on the government's plan to change the country's constitution.

The ruling People's Alliance (PA) government, which has a single seat majority in the 225 seat parliament, requires the support of the UNP to get a two-thirds majority vote in parliament to pass the new constitution.

The UNP has yet to state

openly its position on the new constitution, but other minority parties have indicated their support.

The government has said it will present its constitutional reform package in parliament ahead of the November budget session.

"No major decision will be arrived at (Monday's) meeting, but it will be an opportunity for detailed discussion," said the UNP official who declined to be identified.

The government proposes to convert the existing Proportional Representation (PR) election system into a hybrid of PR and first-past-the-post, where each voter casts only one vote and the candidate receiving the most votes is the winner.

"We (parliamentary committee) have to now decide how we can shift from the present PR system to a more democratic and politically correct election system," the UNP official said.

Political analysts have said the proposed new election system will ensure fair representation, especially for minorities.

The government in 1995 unveiled a peace plan that aimed to turn Sri Lanka into a federal state in all but name and grant generous autonomy to minority Tamils to try to satisfy their demands for a separate homeland.



North Korean soldiers carry a casket containing the remains of a U.S. soldier killed during the 1950-53 Korean War at the truce village of Panmunjom in heavy rain Monday. The repatriation of four sets of remains appears to be a goodwill gesture made on the eve of landmark four-nation talks. On Tuesday the two Koreas, the United States and China will meet in New York to begin hammering out a permanent peace mechanism on the Korean Peninsula. (Reuters photo)

## N. Korea makes goodwill gesture on eve of talks

SEOUL (R) — In a goodwill gesture on the eve of landmark four-nation talks, North Korea Monday handed over the remains of four U.S. soldiers killed during the 1950-1953 Korean War, witnesses said.

Within hours of the handover at the tense Korean border, North and South Korea linked up their public telephone lines for the first time since the Korean Peninsula was divided at the end of World War II, Seoul officials said.

The lines will allow South Korean workers preparing to build nuclear power plants in North Korea to communicate with their families and their headquarters in the South, they said.

At Panmunjom, the only crossing point along the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) bisecting the peninsula, North Korean soldiers delivered four metal caskets to representatives of the U.S.-led United Nations Command.

The delivery of the U.S. remains came as the two Koreas, the United States

and China prepared for a meeting Tuesday in New York to set a date, venue and agenda for their peace talks.

The four-party talks are aimed at forging a permanent peace mechanism on the Korean Peninsula, the last cold war flashpoint, to replace the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War.

The United States backed the capitalist South during the war and China the Communist North.

The remains of the four soldiers were excavated by 10 U.S. experts who arrived in the North in mid-July to search for Americans missing in action from the war.

Drenched by rain, U.S. honour guards draped the caskets in United Nations flags after they were delivered to the southern side. Several members of the U.S. search team watched the handover from the northern side.

"These soldiers are members of the eighth cavalry first battalion who died during fierce fighting in October of 1950," Alan Liotta,

deputy director of the U.S. Defence Department, said at Panmunjom.

The remains were recovered in the North's Unsan county, where several hundred Americans are known to have been lost in battles between U.S. and Chinese troops during the war.

The remains will be sent to the United States for identification, Mr. Liotta said.

Pyeongyang's official media said one of the four is Ernadis Andrew. No more details were given.

Seoul officials said the handover reflected Pyongyang's desire to improve relations with Washington in order to encourage foreign investment in the impoverished North.

U.S. and South Korean officials said their two countries would propose steps to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula once the four-party talks get under way.

Seoul's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Lee Kyu-Hyung, said the four-nation talks could discuss large-

scale food and economic assistance to famine-threatened North Korea as part of steps to build mutual trust between the two Koreas.

Washington has pledged \$52 million and Seoul \$16 million in response to 1997 appeals by the U.N. World Food Programme to stave off famine in the North. The South Korean Red Cross has donated a further \$20 million worth of aid.

Meanwhile, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO) is due to start clearing land later this month in the North Korean coastal town of Sinpo, the first step in building two light-water nuclear reactors, Seoul officials said.

KEDO, an international consortium led by the United States, South Korea and Japan, was set up under a 1994 U.S.-North Korean agreement calling for an end to Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

The U.S. pledged \$4.5 billion in two nuclear power plants and fuel oil supplies in return.

## France confirms troop cuts in Africa

PARIS (R) — French Defence Minister Alain Richard, confirming Paris will cut its troop levels in Africa, has said it will end nearly half a century of military intervention in the domestic affairs of its former colonies on the continent.

Mr. Richard, returning from a tour of Africa, told the daily Liberation in an interview published Monday that France would cut its forces to less than 6,000 from 8,100.

The forces would be redeployed at five bases in Senegal, Gabon, Chad, Ivory Coast and Djibouti and the large Bouar Base in the Central African Republic would be closed, he said.

The number of French combat planes based in Africa would be cut to a dozen from 15 while transport planes would be boosted to up to nine from the current six or seven.

Mr. Richard toured Gabon, Chad and the Central African Republic last week to start outlining troop cuts decided by the new Socialist government, which is keen to cut its spending on a continent that needs less policing after the

end of the cold war. France has launched an overhaul of the armed forces, including a shift to a smaller, all-professional force.

Mr. Richard said French forces would keep protecting French communities and ensuring stability, but without intervening in domestic disputes on the continent where Paris has often stepped in to prop up or topple African strongmen.

"French military presence...helps to ensure, in full agreement with our partners, the security indispensable for economic and social development. But this stabilising mission will no longer involve arbitrating between rival forces," he said.

Recent developments in the Congo, where Paris rejected calls from President Pascal Lissouba to intervene in his battle with former Marxist leader Denis Sassou Nguesso, illustrated France's future African policy, he said.

He said a French-backed African peacekeeping force set up in the Central African Republic to quell an army mutiny showed that "Africans...are fully able to intervene themselves in a difficult, even serious situation."

He said Paris would keep up a dialogue with the United States and Britain, which are calling for inter-African peacekeeping forces to help settle crises on the continent.

As an example of Western cooperation, he said the Franco-German Eurocorps brigade would stage its first African manoeuvres in Gabon in the fall.

Mr. Richard denied that Paris was concerned that U.S. influence in Africa was growing at the expense of France, saying he saw Washington as an ally rather than a rival.

"I sincerely wish for Africa that the United States give it...substantial means to overcome its handicaps," he said.

"I do not see why France should be worried, as the need for cooperation is so large," he added.

Paris has suffered a string of setbacks in Africa, culminating in this year's overthrow of long-term ally President Mobutu Sese Seko in what was Zaire by Laurent Kabila's forces.

## Top police officer shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Gunmen Monday shot dead a senior Karachi police officer, raising the death toll to seven in Pakistan's biggest city from two days of renewed strife, police said.

Aslam Kiyani, a deputy superintendent, was attacked in the eastern district of Malir as he stepped out of an armoured personnel carrier. Kiyani, 56, was shot in the chest and died on the spot, a colleague said.

The driver of a private vehicle was also shot dead in Malir, where tension was high.

Groups of armed men, some masked, fought police from rooftops and street corners after trouble broke out in the area Sunday following the arrest of four political activists.

At least three private vehicles were torched and the armed men also fired at fire brigade trucks trying to put out the fires, but no firefighter was hurt, residents said.

All traffic came to a halt and shops were closed in the troubled area which was cordoned off by police and paramilitary soldiers, who conducted raids on the suspected hideouts of troublemakers.

The four arrested men belong to breakaway MQM-Haqiqi faction of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), which changed its name this month from the Mohajir Qaumi Movement.

Police said the Haqiqi "militants" had been arrested on charges of killing policemen.

On Sunday, two people were shot dead in Malir while two bullet-riddled were found in the central Sharifabad area. A fifth person was shot dead in eastern district of Korangi.

Karachi Police Chief Malik Iqbal said all those behind violence in Malir would be taken into custody. "We will not spare anyone engaged in lawlessness," he vowed.

MQM-Haqiqi leaders claimed the unrest was a public reaction against "Indiscriminate" arrests and police raids. The violence caused severe hardship to Malir residents. "We are trapped in homes for the last two days. My family is terrified," said one resident by telephone.

A wave of violence has claimed more than 400 lives in Karachi since January. The victims included scores of political activists and at least 15 police.

## Plane crash-lands in Britain; all escape

LONDON (R) — A British Airways ATP regional airliner Sunday made a dramatic crash landing on two wheels after the left undercarriage failed, but all 70 people on board escaped without serious injury, officials said.

An airport spokesman said the British Aerospace ATP airliner had just taken off from Manchester at 7 p.m. when the captain realised the left undercarriage had locked in the upright position.

He immediately declared an emergency and the plane, which had been heading for Knock in Ireland, ditched fuel before coming back into Manchester Airport to land at 8.05 p.m. with just the nose and right wheels working.

The pilot managed to keep the plane upright until his speed dropped and the left wing hit the ground, starting a small blaze which was quickly put out by fire engines pursuing the airliner.

"The pilot did an excellent job. There were 63 passengers on board, but there was not a single casualty," the spokesman told the domestic Press Association News Agency.

Those on board the plane escaped using emergency slides. A spokesman for the ambulance service said two of those on board were treated for minor cuts.

Manchester Airport was closed for the crash landing, rescue operation and removal of the plane from

the runway. The airliner was operated on behalf of B.A. by British Regional Airlines, based on the Isle of Man.

"In the circumstances it was an excellent handling of the airliner," British Regional Airlines director Michael Bathgate told Sky Television News.

A British Airways spokeswoman contacted by telephone said she could not immediately comment since she was still collecting information on the incident.

## Delight among Patten critics in H. Kong as secret row goes public

HONG KONG (AFP) — Critics of former Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten erupted with glee Monday at a British government inquiry into allegations that he had leaked official secrets to a journalist.

Just five weeks after Hong Kong's last governor ended his mission on a moral high note, Mr. Patten's adversaries here said the allegations exposed his ambitious ego and Britain's "hypocrisy" towards its last major colony.

Others said the row laid bare the bitterness of "China hand" diplomats in the British Foreign Office, who had fought in vain against Mr. Patten's bid to strengthen democracy before Hong Kong's handback to China.

Mr. Patten's "many detractors in Hong Kong... have long ago dismissed him as a man of little honour who was prepared to sacrifice the welfare of Hong Kong and its six million inhabitants to bolster his own image and interests," the Hong Kong Standard said.

"Hopefully, this episode about breaches of the official secrets act will convince Mr. Patten's dwindling number of supporters in Hong Kong that he never acted in their best interests," it said.

The allegations, published in Britain's Sunday Times,

said Mr. Patten handed secret information to journalist Jonathan Dimbleby, whose authorized biography, "The Last Governor," was published last month with a fly-on-the-wall TV series on Mr. Patten's five years in Hong Kong.

In his book, Mr. Dimbleby says the governor spoke of a gentleman's agreement between London and Beijing to intervene in his battle with former Marxist leader Denis Sassou Nguesso, illustrated France's future African policy, he said.

He said a French-backed African peacekeeping force set up in the Central African Republic to quell an army mutiny showed that "Africans...are fully able to intervene themselves in a difficult, even serious situation."

Peter Mandelson, minister without portfolio and close adviser to Prime Minister Tony Blair, confirmed an official enquiry had been opened, although he refused to say whether Mr. Patten was its target.

The Sunday Times said the book infuriated several key players in the negotiations for Hong Kong's handover. They included former foreign secretary, Lord Howe; Sir Percy Cradock, China adviser to ex-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; and Mr. Patten's predecessor as Hong Kong governor, Lord Wilson.

Hong Kong analysts agreed Monday it was a revenge attack by the Foreign Office's China experts, who had always warned that any pro-democracy crusade

would end in disaster but in Mr. Patten's view were simply appeasers of Beijing.

Mr. Patten's campaign resulted in Hong Kong's first elected legislature, but this outraged China. The assembly was swept away on July 1 and replaced with an interim law-making body.

"The Foreign Office officials have reasons to hate the book, because historical judgement on many figures concerned will be affected," said Lau Siu-Kai of the Chinese University, a member of China's now-disbanded Preparatory Committee for Hong Kong.

Whatever the probe digs up, the British government will hush things up, editorialists said.

But Mr. Patten's image as a champion of liberalism and decency — which reached its zenith with his emotional departure from Hong Kong on June 30 — would take a knock, they agreed.

It was "ironic" that Mr. Patten now found himself under investigation, as he had twice tried to stifle leaks of official material that could have weakened his administration, the South China Morning Post charged.

## Indian party divided after Premier's convention walk-out

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's dominant ruling party was left badly divided Monday after ending a two-day conclave during which Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral walked out in protest, party sources said.

A party official, however, ruled out the possibility of another split in the Janata Dal (People's Party), the core member of the country's minority United Front coalition government, which recently suffered a major defection.

"Yes, we do have differences but the Janata Dal is not going to break," said Manju Mohan, one of its national secretaries.

The Janata Dal convention ended around midnight Sunday amid pandemonium when angry party activists blocked a resolution demanding the reservation of a third of all legislative seats for women.

Furious delegates raised a furore when the resolution was put to the vote. Party ideologue, Surendra Mohan, defending the proposal, was booed and walked out in anger.

Premier Gujral, who came to power in April at the head of a fragile multi-party coalition, met an identical fate Saturday while calling for public probity while

addressing hundreds of party delegates from all over the country.

Supporters of Janata Dal President Sharad Yadav, who is facing charges of accepting a bribe, interpreted the speech as a direct attack on Mr. Yadav and repeatedly interrupted the 77-year-old premier.

Mr. Gujral walked out in protest after none of the party leaders alongside him on the dais intervened on his behalf.

Although Party Chief Yadav later apologised to the prime minister, Mr. Gujral refused to return and boycotted Sunday's meeting as well.

Janata Dal sources admitted the party, which suffered a split last month, needed emergency measures to put its house in order if it was to survive.

The Janata Dal, formed in 1988, has suffered several splits in its short history. In July, then-President Laloo Prasad formed a breakaway faction after taking away a third of its 45 members of parliament.

"Our party workers should not have misbehaved with the prime minister," a party official told AFP.

At the same time, Mr. Gujral should not have walked out. A leader should

try to understand members' feelings and put up with differences."

Newspapers Monday warned the Dal divisions could spell a death knell for India's coalition, a loose alliance of more than a dozen centrist, regional and left-wing parties.

The Hindustan Times, under the headline "retired hurt," said Mr. Gujral's walkout had not been "a pleasant sight" and argued it confirmed the Janata Dal was in its "terminal stage."

"Saturday's events... may have given a foretaste of something worse to come," it said.

The Tribune said: "The prime minister does not get provoked easily."

It argued his loss of patience at the weekend led to "a feeling of disquiet which may mean pessimism in respect of the multi-party rule of the nation."

The Janata Dal is divided between those owing allegiance to Mr. Gujral and those considered close to his predecessor H.D. Deve Gowda and his ally Sharad Yadav.

Mr. Gujral is widely seen as being soft on the Congress (I) Party, which keeps his minority coalition government in power with its parliamentary backing.

Deve Gowda, forced to resign as prime minister in April after the congress withdrew its support from the United Front, advocates a hard line against the Congress.

In a separate development fifteen people were injured Monday in an explosion on a passenger train in southern India, authorities said.

In a second incident, at least 10 people, including a junior minister, were injured when a train derailed near the capital, New Delhi, news agencies said. Authorities said they suspected sabotage.

Police said industrial explosives carried by a passenger may have triggered the blast on the train in the southern state of Karnataka and that it was not believed to be a criminal act.

"We have no reason to suspect the hand of terrorists," Deputy Police Chief D.B. Desai told Reuters by telephone from Kolar town, about 70 kilometres north-east of the Karnataka capital Bangalore.

The train was in Malur town, about 40 kilometres east of Bangalore, when the explosion occurred. It had started its trip in Madurai in neighbouring Tamil Nadu state and was headed to Bangalore, authorities said.



Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, a Cambodian witness, was taken and almost brought to life imprisonment by his

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Wan receives I

Protest raises





Notorious Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot on trial on July 25 at the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Anlong Veng in northern Cambodia. A Cambodian witness to the trial reported Mr. Pol Pot was calm during most of his recent show trial but was shaken and almost brought to tears when accused of being as bad as strongman Hun Sen. Mr. Pol Pot was sentenced to life imprisonment by his former comrades (Reuters photo)

## Rescuers race bad weather to search for Australian disaster survivors

**THREDBO (AFP)** — Rescuers raced bad weather here Tuesday to try to find more landslide survivors as Australia's political leaders attended a service in the ski resort chapel to remember those who perished.

Only Saturday's miraculous rescue of ski-instructor Stuart Diver inspired any hope of finding life after a five-day search amid the rubble of two lodges. Mr. Diver's wife and eight friends died in the disaster and nine others were still missing.

The number of people listed as missing was reduced from 10 Monday after one person originally believed to be buried in the rubble was accounted for, the local coroner's office said.

The New South Wales state coroner's office said one person had since been located elsewhere. Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer and opposition leader Kim Beazley arrived from Canberra for the noon service in the 90-seat chapel packed with victims' families and friends overflowing to temporary seating in the winter sunshine outside.

Governor-General Sir William Deane read a message of sympathy and support from the queen to the people of Thredbo.

With rain forecast for Wednesday and the strong chance of snow Thursday, officials prepared to erect tarpaulins to protect the site.

but admitted that hopes were all but exhausted of finding more survivors.

"I think one must hope that there are, but obviously as time goes on it's getting more and more difficult," fire brigade Superintendent Ray Kelly said.

A fresh taskforce of state emergency service personnel arrived to reinforce the 600 rescue workers, including local volunteers, who have cleared and searched the concrete rubble in rotating shifts.

Officials said the dangerous tunnelling through some of the concrete slabs under which Mr. Diver was found, suffering from frostbite of the toes, had been abandoned as no longer effective.

Rescuers found him entombed beneath a massive slab covering the wrecked Bimbadeen Lodge, the main accommodation centre for resort management staff.

Mr. Diver's wife Sally died almost instantly as the landslide swept down the hillside Thursday night.

Mr. Fischer, who had met diver during an annual mountain hiking trip from Thredbo, visited him in Canberra Hospital before the service.

"He wants everyone to know that he can move his toes even better than before," said Mr. Fischer, whose electorate adjoins Thredbo.

"His spirits are good. He wants to thank and I want to

say thanks on behalf of the prime minister and all Australians to all who have been involved."

Police said it was expected to take at least three more days to complete the search, working slowly with a constant risk of further landslide. The work is being supervised by a team of surveyors monitoring the debris for movement.

Police Superintendent Charlie Sanderson said no further movement of the debris had been detected since Monday when surveyors reported it had moved 40 centimetres in the previous 36 hours.

Anglican Bishop George Browning described Mr. Diver's rescue as miraculous and said it united all Australians in a way that could hardly have been imagined.

"For all of that, a great tragedy remains that almost defies description, that such a loss of life in such unimaginable circumstances is almost beyond our comprehension," he said.

Mr. Beazley described Thredbo as "arguably the most beautiful part of Australia" with the worst suffering.

"The town is going to struggle with the loss of a huge number, a huge percentage of their permanent population and I think the suffering here will be suffering that will last for a very long time."

## Typhoon leaves 3 dead, 4 missing in China

**HONG KONG (AFP)** — Three people were killed and four were missing after Typhoon Victor hit the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, it was reported Monday.

The storm, which had earlier left one dead and 55 injured when it struck Hong Kong late Saturday, also injured 18 others as its swept past Shenzhen, Dongguan, Shantou and Guangzhou, the provincial capital, the China-backed daily Wen Wei Po said.

Four female migrant workers were missing after they fell into a river Sunday while seeking shelter from the storm in Shenzhen, the report said.

Initial estimates put the cost of storm damage to property and crops at 15 million yuan (\$1.78 million).

The hardest hit was Chaozhou City in eastern Guangdong where 303 houses collapsed in a tornado that came with the storm, killing two people and injured 15.

More than 20 towns reported floods and landslides brought on by the heavy rain.

The typhoon, the first to score a direct hit on Hong Kong in 14 years, weakened as it moved further inland.

The newspaper said rainfalls reached between 80 millimetres and 150 millimetres in Shantou, Chaoyang, Huizhou and Shenzhen.

The storm also dumped up to 200 millimetres of rain on Hong Kong in one day.

## Cambodia's Hun Sen insists ousted prince must face trial

**PHNOM PENH (Agencies)** — Cambodian leader Hun Sen Monday ruled out talks with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the co-premier he ousted last month, at least until after the prince stood trial.

Mr. Hun Sen, who overthrew Prince Ranariddh on July 6 after two days of fighting in Phnom Penh, said he might support a royal amnesty for Prince Ranariddh if the prince's father, King Norodom Sihanouk, wanted to grant him a pardon if he was convicted in court.

"After the court, not before the court," Mr. Hun Sen told reporters when asked if he would negotiate with Prince Ranariddh. "I don't need to discuss with Ranariddh but he must discuss with the court."

Prince Ranariddh left Cambodia shortly before last month's fighting and has called from abroad for opposition to Mr. Hun Sen.

Mr. Hun Sen has said the prince was free to return home, but would have to face trial for his negotiations with the outlawed Khmer Rouge guerrilla group and for alleged weapons smuggling.

Since taking sole power, Mr. Hun Sen has said he wants his coalition with Prince Ranariddh's royalist FUNCINPEC party to remain in place, for FUNCINPEC to choose a successor for Prince Ranariddh as first prime minister, and for elections to be held in May as scheduled.

Three envoys from the

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) raised the thorny question of a role for Prince Ranariddh in talks with Mr. Hun Sen at the weekend.

The envoys, led by Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, told Mr. Hun Sen that all political players in Cambodia should be allowed to take part in the election in May if it was to be credible.

"He (Mr. Hun Sen) agreed with us that the general elections in May would have no meaning unless participated in by all political forces, and all political parties, freely," Mr. Alatas told a news conference.

Mr. Alatas declined to reveal more details of his talks with Mr. Hun Sen concerning Prince Ranariddh, saying the prince had to be informed of the discussion first.

A diplomat from the region said Monday he believed Mr. Hun Sen was willing to negotiate Prince Ranariddh's future role, despite his apparent insistence that the prince stood trial.

Mr. Hun Sen appealed Monday to politicians who fled the country in the wake of Prince Ranariddh's overthrow, to return.

Many members of the royalist FUNCINPEC party and its sympathisers left Cambodia after the prince's ouster including some 20 members of parliament, either members of FUNCINPEC or a smaller allied party.

Among those who fled was Son Soubert, one of two

National Assembly vice-presidents, whose approval of certain motions, including the appointment of a new first prime minister, is required under the assembly's rules.

Mr. Son Soubert's absence has brought into question the proper functioning of parliament, but Mr. Hun Sen said those who left could not hold the assembly hostage.

Mr. Hun Sen's call for Prince Ranariddh's trial came as the outlawed Khmer Rouge guerrilla group said Monday Cambodian leader Hun Sen himself should be brought before an international court for the alleged killing of supporters of the prince.

"The puppet Hun Sen has to be sent to the international court and sentenced in accordance with his criminal act," guerrilla radio said in a broadcast monitored in Phnom Penh.

The guerrillas' clandestine radio has long been their main propaganda mouthpiece.

Some 40 of the prince's supporters, including several senior military officials and their bodyguards, were killed by Mr. Hun Sen's troops, diplomatic sources and human rights workers said.

Meanwhile some 360 troops loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh returned to Cambodia after fleeing to Thailand last week, and thousands of refugees were expected to follow, Thai officials said Monday.

The royalist troops had

fled fighting in northwestern Cambodia late last week and were allowed into Thailand after being disarmed, Thai Colonel Anupong Paochinda told reporters.

He said the royalists returned to their Cambodian villages over the weekend.

A large number of weapons, including AK-47 and M-16 rifles, mortars, submachine guns and ammunition were left behind in Thailand.

About 3,600 Cambodian refugees who left Thailand to escape fighting between the royalists and troops loyal to strongman Hun Sen, were expected to go home Tuesday or Wednesday, Col. Anupong said.

"The fighting situation died down in the areas and the Cambodian officials have agreed to take these people back," he said.

Factional fighting in several small villages in northwestern Cambodia late last week forced between 5,000-6,000 people to flee to Aranyaprathet district in eastern Thailand. Some of them returned to Cambodia shortly after crossing into Thailand.

Thai military officials on the border said Friday that Mr. Hun Sen's forces had captured O'bei Chuan and its 200 royalist defenders had withdrawn into the bush.

Friday's movement of refugees was the first time Cambodians had been allowed across the border since before U.N.-sponsored elections in Cambodia in 1993. Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen formed an uneasy coalition after that poll.



Taliban fighters on an armoured personnel carrier drive through the village of Hussain Kot, their frontline against opposition forces, some 19 kilometres north of the capital Kabul. The Taliban have been trying to fend off opposition attacks on the capital for the past two weeks (Reuters photo)

## Taliban locked in fierce battle north of Kabul

**KABUL (AP)** — Artillery and rocket fire thundered overhead as Taliban soldiers battled on the ground Monday to drive their enemies back from positions just north of the Afghan capital Kabul.

A Taliban commander said the Islamic militia brought in 300 fresh troops and launched an offensive to take enemy positions in Mir Bacha Kot, barely 20 kilometres north of the war-weary capital.

"We launched an attack on Mir Bacha Kot and fight-

ing continues for the area," said Mullah Muslim.

Mr. Muslim wouldn't say if the Taliban gained any ground in Monday's offensive, but acknowledged his forces were held back when enemy warplanes dropped cluster bombs.

Two weeks ago, northern opposition forces led by ousted military chief, Ahmad Shah Massoud punched through successive Taliban positions until they reached the outskirts of Kabul.

But the front line has been stalled just south of Mir

Bacha Kot since then, with both sides pounding the other daily with artillery and rocket fire.

Mr. Massoud and his Uzbek allies in the north have threatened to launch an all-out assault on Kabul unless the Taliban evacuate.

But Mr. Muslim said his forces would never give up the fight.

"We are ready to defend Kabul against such brutal actions," he said.

Scores of refugees flooded the road leading south to the capital, many fleeing

their villages with whatever they could carry.

"There were so many incoming rockets in the last few days, we decided we had to leave," said Najibullah, a villager who like many Afghans goes by only one name.

The Taliban movement has imposed a strict version of Islamic law in the zones it controls, banning women from work and outlawing light entertainment like television and music. The opposition espouses a more liberal view of Islam.

## Taiwan receives French-made frigate

**TAIPEI (AFP)** — The fourth French-made Lafayette-class frigate ordered by Taiwan has arrived at the southern naval base of Tsoying, the navy announced Monday.

The warship has arrived after more than 40 days sailing from France, a naval spokesman said.

The frigate, to be called "Ti Hua," is scheduled to be put into service in mid-August.

The spokesman said the 3,500-tonne frigate, with its updated designs, should be able to cope with any challenges.

"It is particularly strong regarding its capability to survive battles," he said.

Military officers have said many parts of the frigate's surfaces are made of high-tech composite materials making them less visible to radar detection, earning the ship the nickname of "Stealth Frigate."

The Ti Hua is one of the six Lafayette-class warships that Taiwan ordered from France in 1991 for \$2.8 billion.

The first three ships were commissioned into the navy as Kang Ting, Hsi Ning and Kun Ming. The fifth will be delivered before the year's end.

The Ti Hua will be armed with the Phalanx air defence system, Sea Chaparral surface-to-air missiles, home-

made Hsiung Feng II anti-ship missiles and an anti-submarine helicopter.

Beijing, which has viewed Taiwan as a breakaway province since their split in 1949 at the end of a civil war, opposed the arms sale.

Taipei and Paris struck a \$3.8 billion deal in 1992 for 60 Mirage 2000-5s, pushing Paris-Beijing ties to new ebbs. Beijing closed a French consulate in the southern city of Guangzhou. The consulate was only officially reopened in June.

Beijing has threatened to attack the nationalist island should it declare formal independence, prompting Taiwan to seek more advanced weaponry.

## China protest raises alarm on bankruptcies

**MIANYANG (R)** — China's Mianyang silk printing factory stands closed, locked and empty, but a rowdy protest by its workers last month after the textile plant declared bankruptcy has rung alarm bells in the region.

Local officials said such incidents had to be expected, offering an unusually candid recognition of the problems thrown up by China's sweeping, capitalist-style economic reforms.

At least 600 to 700 workers took to the streets on July 7 and 8, blocking traffic with dustbins, desks and chairs.

officials in Mianyang in southwestern Sichuan province said at the weekend.

One city resident said about 1,000 workers from three bankrupt factories took part in the two-day protest and as many as 50 people were detained.

Officials blamed the protest on a misunderstanding after workers posted a notice saying government representatives would visit the factory on July 7 to discuss benefits after the bankruptcy.

When Mianyang officials failed to arrive that Monday morning, workers poured

out on to a major intersection outside the factory in the western part of the city, they said.

The protesters dispersed after police seized those people who were blocking traffic and began talks to reassure workers, officials said.

No one was injured and nine people detained for disrupting public order were freed after 6 to 15 days in custody.

The incident has highlighted the delicacy of China's use of bankruptcy to push economic reform.

**SARAJEVO (R)** — Hundreds of Muslims who had returned to their pre-war homes in a Croat-controlled area of Bosnia over the last three weeks have been forced to flee again by drunken Croat mobs, officials said Sunday.

By Sunday evening only 85 Muslims remained of the hundreds who had returned to the town of Jajce, about 100 kilometres northwest of Sarajevo, and three surrounding villages.

"But then even these were taken out of their village, Krusica, by bus and were heading east towards the

town of Travnik, a spokesman for the NATO-led SFOR peacekeeping force said.

"All three villages are now empty. The Muslims agreed to go. The buses were not UNHCR buses, we think they were provided by the Jajce local authorities," spokesman, Adrian Wilkinson told Reuters.

Bosnian Television reported that one man, Hasim Sahman, had been burned to death when his house was burned down near Jajce, and Bosnian radio said a number of Muslims' houses had been set on fire.

The Muslims said they intended to make another attempt Tuesday to return to the villages, which were their homes before the 43-month Bosnian war.

The population of Jajce is around 98 per cent Bosnian Croat, and the town is run by Croat authorities.

Mr. Wilkinson said SFOR had received a report from the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF) that one person had died in the village of Psenik, just south of Jajce, Saturday night.

The report said his house was burned down. Nobody

from IPTF was available to confirm the report to Reuters.

IPTF spokesman, Alex Ivanko said earlier that 372 Muslims had decided over the weekend not to stay in Jajce and had moved to a police station in a nearby Muslim-controlled area.

Mr. Wilkinson said that after the last Muslims had fled Krusica, around 250 Bosnian Croats who had gathered north and south of the village headed back to Jajce "having achieved their aim."

The office of the international community's high

representative in Bosnia said in a statement that the events were unacceptable.

It demanded that conditions be established within 48 hours "which would enable families who left Jajce to return to their homes with full guarantees for their safety."

The statement said there were indications that police might have been involved in the incidents — a chronic problem in ethnically riven Bosnia.

British forces serving with SFOR in Bosnia were present in armoured vehicles monitoring the situation during the day.



## Jordan Times

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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## Adding fuel to the fire

JUST WHAT was Newt Gingrich actually trying to say when he told Fox Television on Sunday that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had lost all credibility in the U.S. Congress? The U.S. House of Representatives speaker's statements to the Fox Sunday News programme were nothing short of inflammatory, if not libellous, accusations and poorly-veiled threats. Saying that the U.S. needed a "tougher anti-terrorist strategy" and that it should "flatly let it be known in the Middle East that we (the U.S.) will be supportive of steps needed to protect innocent Israelis," Mr. Gingrich once again exposes his bigotry.

He does this by directing all blame for last week's bloodshed in Jerusalem on Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority, stating "the clear evidence that Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian [National] Authority have not only not stopped terrorism, but had people in their organisation helping terrorists." His prejudice allows him only a selective view of the facts on the ground and thus he speaks from the self-righteous stance reminiscent of proponents of organisations bent on bias, intolerance and discrimination. His are fearful declarations indeed.

Fearful because they ignore the terror that Palestinians face when gun-wielding Jewish settlers place roadblocks along roads leading from one Palestinian village to another. Fearful because all the work on the path to peace is being shattered by an unyielding, insolent movement of Israeli hawks who purport to be safeguarding their country's security by continuing to build settlements on Palestinian lands and disregarding the tenets of the Oslo accords, let alone decades-old U.N. resolutions. Fearful because an already fragile process is being torn away, and what lies ahead, should the deterioration peak, is ominous.

Proposing "raids into Palestinian territory," "arresting Palestinian [National] Authority leaders," and taking "whatever steps have to be taken," are menacing suggestions from one of the United States' most senior officials. The arrogance with which Mr. Gingrich takes up one side of the conflict should be enough to dismiss his comments as reactionary.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i strongly criticised U.S. President Bill Clinton who showed respect for the dead Israelis but totally disregarded the Palestinian victims of Israeli atrocities. Tareq Masarweh supported his agreement by pointing out, in particular, President Clinton's show of respect for the mourning period in Israel, following the suicide bombings in Jerusalem, by delaying the despatch of his special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross to the area. He said that the president does not respect the sufferings of the Palestinians who continually face starvation, criminal actions and repression at the hands of the Israelis. The U.S. president, along with the leadership of many Western nations and even human rights organisations, have shown little concern over the plight of the Palestinians who have scores of dead and wounded every year at the hands of the Israeli forces which occupy the Palestinian lands, noted the writer. He said that by contrast, whenever a single Jew falls due to resistance activity on the part of the oppressed Palestinians, Washington raises the hue and cry and accuses the Palestinians of being terrorists. The U.S. president does not have any respect for us neither do we harbour any respect for him and we believe he is not concerned with peace and that his signature on the peace accords is meaningless, the writer concluded.

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm Monday criticised the government's practice of awarding tenders for Jordanian projects to non-Jordanian construction firms, thus depriving thousands of local citizens of the chance to make a living. In the past few months, at least three major contracts were awarded to foreign firms: a tender for lifts was given to an American firm, a tender for the supply of electric cables to a Bahraini company and a tender for the supply of batteries to a government agency awarded to an Israeli firm, noted the writer. He said that this practice at a time when it is obvious that Jordanian firms can meet the requirements of these tenders and many others, reflects the government's tendency to disregard the national industry. It is known that the Jordanian balance of trade faces a continued deficit and the state's foreign currency reserves are limited, but little is done to address the situation, charged the writer. He said that Jordan, which is in need of every penny to implement the economic restructuring programme, should try to take every possible measure to save funds for its development projects.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Corruption's urgent challenge: Honourable statehood or perpetual criminality

By Rami G. Khouri

OF THE truly urgent challenges facing the Arab and Middle East region — protecting the environment, reducing corruption and promoting participatory and accountable governance — the most difficult to address is probably that of corruption. So, I thought it would be worthwhile to explore the initial stages of the anti-corruption campaign that was launched in Jordan last year by the government of then Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti — one of his government's several bold and appropriate acts. As with any such top-down initiative in the Third World — and we are, despite our celestial-speed increase in per capita donuts consumption, firmly anchored in the Third World — the launching of the anti-corruption drive elicited scepticism among many Jordanians. The common sentiment remains that anti-corruption efforts will target the small fish, not the big sharks and whales; that low-level government employees who engage in petty corruption will suffer trial, fines and imprisonment, without touching the really big crooks who, it is widely believed and alleged, exploit their public offices and connections to milk state and society of millions of dinars.

This might turn out to be the case, but it would be unfair at this early stage in Jordan's anti-corruption campaign to accept this as an axiomatic and irrevocable truth. Intrigued by little bits of news that have appeared about this during the past year, last week I visited the anti-corruption department at the General Intelligence Department (GID) and spoke with officers in charge to learn more about their work.

The most startling thing I discovered (other than how refreshing it is for one to initiate a visit to the GID and ask them questions, instead of being called in for a chat and a cup of coffee) was about the wide range of issues being dealt with under the anti-corruption campaign, in both the private and public sectors. In the 14 months since it started work in May 1996, the department has investigated over 300 cases, resulting in 285 individuals being charged in court (with few verdicts yet, as most cases slowly wind their way through the judicial system). A state judge permanently seconded to the department gives it two important new dimensions: legal advice that is important for the prosecution of cases it sends to the prosecutor-general for indictments in the court system, and the ability to obtain search warrants quickly in order to collect incriminating evidence that can stand up in court.

The department and the courts do not make public the names of individuals, companies or institutions that are charged in court with corruption offences, so it is difficult to gauge the precise nature and extent of the corruption being uncovered. The relatively large scale and broad scope of the prosecutions under way, however, suggest that the anti-corruption effort in Jordan is attempting to achieve its goals through a strategy that relies on quiet, persistent deterrence more than on flamboyant public trials and the shaming of the guilty.

This in turn reflects a more sophisticated appreciation by the state of the corrosive, long-term damage that corruption causes, manifested in the need for Crown Prince Hassan frequently refers to as "soft security". Corruption is not only a problem of cash that is siphoned from the public wealth to private hands; it is a veritable national security threat comprising a string of intertwined infections that slowly eat away at the integrity of the state and its laws, eventually relegating society as a whole to a state of permanent thievery, mediocrity and, ultimately, lawlessness.

A new International Monetary Fund study entitled "Why Worry About Corruption?" notes that most public corruption can be traced to government intervention in the econ-

omy (price controls, subsidies, trade restrictions, over-licensing), low wage scales in the public sector and the tendency to benefit one's own relatives and co-members of one's ethnic, religious and linguistic group in societies with minorities (as is the case in Jordan and much of the Arab World). The many shocking consequences of corruption include: lower investment levels, retarded economic growth, misallocation of talent away from productive work, misuse and eventual reduction in foreign aid flows, loss of tax revenues leading to adverse budgetary consequences, lower quality infrastructure and public services, and distortions in the composition of government expenditures.

Our own young anti-corruption drive substantiates these conclusions. Most of the Jordanian corruption cases involving the biggest sums of money have been uncovered in the customs department, tenders and water departments, municipalities, and state financial institutions, and they frequently involved paying bribes in order to evade paying legitimate taxes or fees. These and other cases have involved blatant theft, fraud, bribery, fixing contracts and embezzlement by public officials, as well as wrongdoing by the private sector that harms the well-being of Jordanians.

For example, several groups of forgers have been apprehended after having mass produced over 500 fake Kuwaiti secondary school certificates that were used to secure acceptances in Jordanian universities. Manufacturers of fake household cleaners and of edible salt produced from dangerous potash wastes have been sent to court, along with smaller scale merchants who sold unhygienic sweets to school children in low-income urban areas. In upper-income west Amman, the anti-corruption unit broke up an operation that paid students to spend the night in an unlicensed clinic where they were used as human guinea pigs to test new medicines. In a major northern city, the unit exposed some contractors who won municipal construction contracts with low bids that they knew could not adequately implement all the required works, and then bribed officials who exempted them from carrying out certain provisions of the contract due to obscure technical reasons — resulting in financial gains for the contractors, smaller financial gains for the corrupt officials, and poor quality infrastructural facilities (roads, water systems) for the Jordanian people.

In cases where the anti-corruption department sent officers to accompany routine government inspectors, for samples of medicines and gold jewellery, they were able to secure evidence for use in court cases that the ministry officials legally could not obtain on their own. Another private form of "corruption" that is now actively pursued by the department, complete with video recordings, is the dumping of dangerous chemical wastes on privately owned land east and south of Amman, in some cases threatening to pollute groundwater reserves.

The anti-corruption department's deliberate low-key profile to date has been largely designed to achieve two results: to send a credible number of cases to court in order to deter others in the public and private sectors, and to develop a long-term corruption-prevention capacity that would minimise the problem in future. An interesting new development, the GID says, is the increasing number of corruption cases being reported to it by government officials and citizens other than its own officers and employees. A year ago, all corruption cases were initiated by GID staff; today, about 35 per cent of cases are the result of information provided to the department by concerned citizens and officials.

The slow movement of corruption cases through the

courts means that the initial impact of this drive remains low-key, primarily impacting on individuals, government agencies and private companies that are directly implicated and awaiting trial. As news of this effort spreads throughout the economy, by word-of-mouth or the mass media, and as distorting, top-heavy government intervention in the economy is reduced by the impact of deregulation, the full effectiveness of the anti-corruption drive may become clearer.

The political dimensions of this process, though, must also be addressed soon — especially the sense that such an important mission should not be solely left to the security agencies, but should be housed in a manner and place that enjoy joint judicial-parliamentary supervision. This valid question should be tackled soon by all concerned, before the inevitable charges of abuse of power nip in the bud a potentially valuable and honourable effort to overcome the extensive political laxity and economic crimes of recent decades.

The anti-corruption drive and its initial findings reflect at once the wide magnitude of the corruption problem, the urgency of doing something about it, and the capacity to do something about it if the will is there. Not yet clear, however, is whether this drive will result in court convictions that actually deter corruption, and whether the state's security and political agencies have the combination of political will, cultural toughness and technical capacity to go after the widely assumed but still elusive cases of large-scale corruption and influence-peddling in the public sector.

This anti-corruption campaign cannot only weed out petty corruption and thus minimise bigger corruption; it also has the opportunity to set itself up as a powerful institutional model of the rule of law, transparency and accountable public power — precisely the missing ingredients that allowed corruption to spread so quickly in recent decades. The nature of intelligence work and anti-corruption information-gathering requires some secrecy and surreptitious monitoring in order to catch criminals in the act, which honest persons would accept as long as basic legal safeguards and human rights were respected; but once the anti-corruption process starts to bear fruit, its perpetuation technically, its validity politically, and its long-term sustainability will all require precisely the opposite attributes — openness, accountability and transparency.

The Intelligence Department, the judiciary, the executive, the legislative branches and the press should all start to ponder these issues together. The initial progress of the anti-corruption drive must be translated into a continuing journey towards brands of statehood and sovereignty that are characterised by equity, honour, clarity, sound governance and the rule of law, rather than by criminality, injustice, lawlessness, political laxity and moral confusion. It is too early to tell if this new process to stem the corruption and deterioration of recent decades will succeed or not. But it is not too early to monitor it, to understand all its political and national dimensions, and to require of it the highest possible standards of efficacy, fairness and legality.

By the way, the only feeling anywhere near as satisfying as walking into the General Intelligence Department on your own free will, for the novel purpose of questioning them, is walking out of the GID on your own free will. When I did so last week, I left with a sense that something potentially important and even historic may be happening in the young anti-corruption drive in this country. Hold the scepticism, demand the facts and watch this space.

# Palestinians try to escape spiral of despair

By Julian Borger

The article below, reprinted from the Guardian Weekly, appeared few days before the July 30 suicide bombing in a Jerusalem marketplace that killed 14 and injured hundreds.

RAMALLAH — Palestinians are anxiously searching for a way to make their economy shockproof. Concentrated in small, easily isolated enclaves, it has proved far more vulnerable than its Israeli counterpart to the crises which punctuate Middle Eastern politics.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip are only just beginning to recover from last year's "closures" imposed by the Israeli government in retaliation for a string of attacks. In February last year, after two bus bombings, the army sealed off the Palestinian autonomous regions and reduced the daily flow of Palestinian workers commuting to Israeli businesses from 70,000 to 15,000 overnight.

Trade in raw materials and finished goods was also squeezed to a trickle and the knock-on effects in the teeming refugee camps and Palestinian towns were severe.

In a recently-published report, the United Nations estimated that the unemployment rate increased from 19 per cent to nearly 30 per cent, and per capita GNP in the Palestinian territories dropped by more than eight per cent. The average Palestinian wage fell by a tenth over the same period, from \$411 per month to \$370, sufficient to cover 64 per cent of basic family

needs.

All the statistics reflect the fact that the Oslo peace process has so far been economically damaging for the Palestinians. By demarcating Palestinian territory, it has solidified the inter-ethnic boundaries and partially unhitched the Palestinians from the much stronger Israeli economy. Since 1993, their income as a group has shrunk by about a third. This year, however, economic analysts are being cautiously upbeat. Despite closures provoked by a March terrorist attack in Tel Aviv, the Palestinian economy is showing signs of growth for the first time in more than five years.

"If the political situation does not explode, 1997 looks like it will be a much better year than 1996," said Salem Ajluni, a U.N. economist working in Gaza. Some forecasts suggest a growth rate this year, of eight per cent.

A partial reason for the better performance is that the March closures were relatively short-lived. The average daily flow of Palestinian labourers into Israel has been 37,000 so far this year, compared with 22,000 last year.

But the vulnerability to external shocks remains. Despite large savings held by the Palestinian diaspora, there has been minimal investment in Gaza and the West Bank as a result of the chronic uncertainty.

"Private investment has contracted substantially since the Oslo process," said Ali Khadr, the deputy World Bank representative based in Ramallah, the West Bank's commercial hub. "A lot of

the diaspora are out there waiting to come in, potentially in large-scale ventures. But they don't know what to do in the next two years... what kind of government there's going to be, whether it will be part of Israel, or what kind of borders there are going to be."

Another cloud over investor confidence is the uncertain track record of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The PNA's hands were tied in terms of fiscal and trade policy by the economic annex to the Oslo accords — which were designed to keep it in line with the Israeli economy. In the search for extra revenue Mr. Arafat's entourage has involved itself deeply in trade, establishing monopolies in the import of petrol and construction materials.

"The character of these companies is not very transparent. There is certainly a need for further examination of the welfare loss involved," Mr. Ali Khadr said.

There are several important developments currently being negotiated which have the potential to transform the investment climate. Under the Oslo accords, Gaza is to have its own airport and seaport, which could dramatically reduce Palestinian dependence on Israel.

Also in negotiation, and probably far closer to reality, is a World Bank and U.S.-sponsored plan to build an industrial zone on the Gaza-Israel border, which would draw on Palestinian labour with Israeli supplies and markets.

The trade-off involved in the so-called Karni-Muntar Zone is that — in return for

supervising its security — the Israelis would guarantee the zone would be "closure-proof".

Detailed negotiations on the Karni-Muntar Zone, the

seaport and the airport have continued in recent weeks despite the freeze in the peace process. However, the Israeli government has yet to sign off on any of the three

projects, perhaps for the same reason the PNA is so eager to see them realised — they would make the Palestinians far less exposed to economic sanctions.

## LETTERS

### Skewed vision

To the Editor:

ON JULY 31, I read on the Nets a selection from The Daily Telegraph in which one Anton La Guardia comments on the suicide bombings in Jerusalem. His thesis is contained in the title: "A violent strategy that erupts only when peace is given a chance" and demonstrates an advanced case of amnesia as well as an absolute myopia concerning the Middle East.

Mr. La Guardia's most basic error is the bland assumption that, in the events leading up to these tragic bombings, peace had been "given a chance." In fact, since the shameful surrender at Oslo, all the events in the region have conspired to deprive the Palestinians of any hope of a just resolution to the dispossession and degradation they have suffered since 1948. Land confiscation had speeded up, new, illegal, Jewish settlements on Palestinian land continued, torture of Palestinians who fight in the legitimate resistance to illegal occupation has increased and became "legal" according to Israeli law, Palestinians born in Palestine continue to be deprived of their right of residence, Palestinian houses continue to be bulldozed, death squads continue to target human rights activists, while the young heroes of the intifada see the fruits of their sacrifices being squandered. If this looks like "peace" to Mr. La Guardia, it only proves that his view of the region is as skewed in favour of the colonialist Zionist state as that of Washington D.C.

Mr. La Guardia dismisses the protests of Palestinians in Hebron as "almost ritual rioting." How would he himself feel if

he lived in a city in which an army were deployed to protect a handful of armed and dangerous American fanatics who had taken over the marketplace and much of the heart of the town in the psychotic belief that a tribal deity wanted them to do so?

As for his fatuous optimism concerning the impending visit of Dennis Ross, what possible evidence is there that, having failed to bring any creative solutions on several past visits, Mr. Ross will have anything to offer except to advise the Palestinians to accept supinely the further rape and plunder of their land and lives?

I grieve for all the victims of these latest bombings, including the Israelis who are living in confiscated Arab houses and displacing their former residents, (since only God can judge whether they do so with a good or bad conscience); but I grieve especially for the young Palestinians who have been driven to such despair that they can see no other way to spend their energy and talent. This is a reflection on the intransigence and incapacity of the Netanyahu government as well as the U.S. administration which supports it, but even more sadly a reflection on the failure of the Palestinian leadership: if there were a real peace process, how many creative programmes worthy of the talents of young Palestinians — like cleaning up villages, holding cultural seminars, building kindergartens, restoring historic buildings, planning tourism in the Palestinian lands, etc. — could \$350 million have initiated? Truly, without vision, the people perish.

Dr. A. Clare Brandabauer, Amman.





## Mulki urges Germany, S. Korea to invest in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Monday urged Germany and South Korea to encourage firms from their respective countries to make investments in the Kingdom and help in the general efforts for the country's development.

Minister of Industry and Trade and Supply Hani Mulki discussed with German Ambassador to Jordan Peter Mende the possibility of Mercedes Daimler-Benz investing in a project undertaken by the Arab Potash Company (APC) for the production of manganese.

Also discussed at the meeting with Mr. Mende was the issue of securing direct European financial aid to Jordan as well as general German investments in the Kingdom, especially in industry, now that the Kingdom's laws permit a foreign investor to own 100 per cent of a project.

Dr. Mulki said the ambassador has expressed readiness on the part of Germany to contribute to this project adding that a delegation from the German company is to visit Jordan soon to discuss opportunities for bilateral ventures in industry and for the transfer of modern technology to Jordan.

The minister said he told the ambassador that Jordan wishes to see major German firms benefiting from the King-

dom's free trade zones and industrial estates to establish subsidiaries to manufacture products for export, noting that the ambassador has promised to follow up this matter with the concerned German authorities.

At a separate meeting with South Korea's Ambassador to Jordan Jung - Il Oh, Dr. Mulki voiced Jordan's desire to see more Korean investments in the Kingdom, pointing out that Seoul has lately increased its exports to the Jordanian markets.

At the meeting, Dr. Mulki suggested that Jordan can serve as a regional centre for maintenance of Korean equipment and machinery which are marketed in the region. He emphasised that Korea can establish factories in Jordan for the manufacture of basic components for the Korean machinery like auto spare parts for various Korean vehicles.

Dr. Mulki also urged South Korea to offer Jordan grants to back its scientific research programmes at the country's universities and the research centres. He said such practice can promote human resources training and ensure the transfer of modern technology to the Kingdom.

## Jordan to spread incentives to other economic sectors

By Ghaila Alul,  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Theme parks, convention centres and cargo transport projects will soon be included in the sectors enjoying incentives and tax exemptions brought about by the Investment Promotion Law, Assistant to the Director General of the Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC) Reem Badran told the Jordan Times Monday.

"Cargo transport is a very important sector especially when the Iraqi market opens up for Jordanian exports," Ms. Badran said, adding that the decision to grant these new sectors tax exemptions has been approved in principle by the Higher Investment Council.

Previously, only industrial and agricultural sectors, hotels, hospitals and maritime transport and railways were granted benefits and tax exemptions as stipulated by the law, geared towards attracting foreign capital into the Kingdom.

The government has been exerting strenuous efforts to encourage more foreign investments in Jordan. Last month it abolished the non-Jordanian equity ownership ceiling in the transportation, insurance, banking, telecommunications and agricultural sectors. The construction, trading and trade services and mining sectors were excluded from the decision, keeping the non-Jordanian equity ownership ceiling at 50 per cent.

"We can see a direct

result at the Amman Financial Market and in the banking sector," Ms. Badran asserted.

She said the recent repeal of Article 4 of Regulation No. 1 of the Investment Promotion Law now allows for foreign investors to transfer cash capital to Jordan after completion of the ownership transfer procedures.

Previously the article stated that a foreign investor must transfer cash capital to the Kingdom in convertible foreign currency before the completion of the ownership transfer procedures.

It also stipulated that a foreign creditor could invest in any project in the Kingdom by capitalising his/her credit to the project itself so long as he/she submitted a proof of his/her initial transfer of funds through a licensed bank in Jordan.

Ms. Badran told the Jordan Times that all areas in Jordan will benefit from tax exemptions according to their respective investment category classifications.

"Previously certain areas and sectors were not exempt from taxes. Now the percentage of the deduction on taxes has been raised to include all areas in the Kingdom," she said.

Ms. Badran stressed that as part of the efforts to attract foreign investors into the Kingdom, the Higher Investment Council approved a decision to grant non-Jordanian investors five-year residency permits. The decision still requires the approval of the cabinet, Ms. Badran added.

REUTERS

REUTERS

### The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates |        |        |        |         |         |        |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Currency                       | USD    | DEM    | GBP    | CHF     | JPY     | CAD    | ITL     | NTD     | FRF     |
| US Dollar                      | -      | 1.8656 | 0.6133 | 1.5260  | 118.33  | 1.3794 | 1628.50 | 2.0103  | 6.2935  |
| DE Mark                        | 0.5360 | -      | 0.3285 | 0.5180  | 63.42   | 0.7392 | 978.78  | 1.1264  | 3.3730  |
| GB Sterling                    | 1.6305 | 3.0418 | -      | 2.4876  | 162.93  | 2.2491 | 2977.56 | 3.4259  | 10.2587 |
| CH Franc                       | 0.6553 | 1.2210 | 0.4012 | -       | 77.47   | 0.9028 | 1196.14 | 137.62  | 4.1191  |
| JP Yen                         | 0.0085 | 1.5759 | 0.5179 | 1.2891  | -       | 1.1652 | 15.43   | 177.52  | 5.3164  |
| CA Dollar                      | 0.7250 | 1.3488 | 0.4434 | 1.1048  | 1.17    | -      | 1316.25 | 1.5192  | 4.5468  |
| IT Lira                        | 0.0005 | 1.0205 | 0.3354 | 0.8835  | 1546.31 | 0.7548 | -       | 11.49   | 3.4428  |
| NL Guilder                     | 0.4759 | 88.75  | 0.2916 | 72.62   | 56.26   | 0.6562 | 868.85  | -       | 2.9838  |
| FR Franc                       | 0.1589 | 0.2964 | 0.0974 | 24.2434 | 16.78   | 0.2191 | 33.38   | 33.3800 | -       |

| Middle Eastern Currencies |        |        |         |        |        |        |        |         |        |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Currency                  | USD    | JOD    | SAR     | BAH    | QAT    | KUW    | AED    | LYB     | EGP    |
| US Dollar                 | -      | 0.7080 | 3.7505  | 0.3770 | 3.6400 | 0.3050 | 3.6728 | 1536.00 | 3.3689 |
| Jordan Dinar              | 1.4124 | -      | 5.2973  | 0.5325 | 5.1412 | 0.4308 | 5.1876 | 2169.49 | 4.7838 |
| Saudi Riyal               | 0.2666 | 0.1888 | -       | 0.1005 | 0.97   | 0.0813 | 0.98   | 409.55  | 0.9031 |
| Bahrain Dinar             | 2.65   | 1.8780 | 9.9483  | -      | 9.68   | 0.8091 | 9.74   | 4074.27 | 9.8939 |
| Qatar Dinar               | 0.2747 | 0.1945 | 1.0304  | 1.0304 | -      | 0.0838 | 1.01   | 421.98  | 0.9305 |
| Kuwait Dinar              | 3.2785 | 2.3212 | 12.2859 | 1.2350 | 11.93  | -      | 12.04  | 6035.74 | 0.9305 |
| Emirates Dinar            | 0.2723 | 0.1928 | 1.0212  | 1.0128 | 0.9911 | 0.0830 | -      | 416.21  | 0.9222 |
| Lebanese/1000             | 0.55   | 0.4609 | 2.4417  | 0.2454 | 2.3698 | 0.1986 | 2.3911 | -       | 2.2050 |
| Egyptian                  | 0.2953 | 0.2080 | 1.1073  | 0.1113 | 1.0747 | 0.0901 | 1.0844 | 453.51  | -      |

| Energy |        | Oil    | Gas |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| Brent  | 19.80  | 19.78  | -   |
| WTI    | 20.38  | 20.34  | -   |
| Bonny  | 19.80  | 19.78  | -   |
| Dubai  | 17.70  | 17.80  | -   |
| UL Gas | 216.00 | 205.00 | -   |

| Metal Prices    |       |       | Gold | Silver | Platinum |
|-----------------|-------|-------|------|--------|----------|
| Gold (oz's)     | 323.4 | 323.9 | -    | -      | -        |
| Silver (oz's)   | 4.5   | 4.52  | -    | -      | -        |
| Platinum (oz's) | 449.5 | 452.5 | -    | -      | -        |
| AL (3 Months)   | 1734  | 1735  | -    | -      | -        |
| CU (3 Months)   | 2298  | 2299  | -    | -      | -        |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1485  | 1486  | -    | -      | -        |
| Lead (3 Months) | 637   | 638   | -    | -      | -        |
| NI (3 Months)   | 7350  | 7360  | -    | -      | -        |

| Main Equity Indices |            |          |         |       |         |         |         |      |      |
|---------------------|------------|----------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|------|------|
| Index               | Value      | Chng     | % Chng  | High  | Low     | Open    | Close   | Prev | Sett |
| New York            | DOW JONES  | 8147.12  | -46.32  | -0.57 | 8193.61 | 8134.11 | 8194.04 | -    | -    |
| New York            | S&P 500    | 944.88   | -2.26   | -0.24 | 947.14  | 943.58  | 947.14  | -    | -    |
| London              | FT-SE 100  | 4883.4   | -15.9   | -0.32 | 4907.2  | 4874    | 4899.3  | -    | -    |
| Tokyo               | NIKKEI 225 | 19668.07 | -136.31 | -0.69 | 19930.5 | 19457   | 19804.4 | -    | -    |
| Paris               | CAC 40     | 2991.86  | -57.58  | -1.89 | 3061.21 | 2980.6  | 3048.44 | -    | -    |
| Frankfurt           | DAX        | 4296.94  | -111.85 | -2.54 | 4350.77 | 4288.21 | 4408.79 | -    | -    |

| Energy          |       |      | Commodity | Last | Delivery |
|-----------------|-------|------|-----------|------|----------|
| Coffee (c/lbs)  | 197   | Spot | -         | -    | -        |
| Cocoa (\$/ton)  | 1538  | Spot | -         | -    | -        |
| Sugar (\$/ton)  | 344.8 | Spot | -         | -    | -        |
| Wheat (\$/ton)  | 143.5 | Spot | -         | -    | -        |
| Soya (c/lbs)    | 22.08 | Spot | -         | -    | -        |
| Tea (\$/lb)     | 148   | Spot | -         | -    | -        |
| Barley (\$/bsh) | 0     | Spot | -         | -    | -        |
| Rice (\$/ton)   | 480   | Spot | -         | -    | -        |

| JOD Cross Rates |        |        |   | Currency | Buy | Sell |
|-----------------|--------|--------|---|----------|-----|------|
| US Dollar       | 0.708  | 0.710  | - | -        | -   | -    |
| GB Sterling     | 1.1531 | 1.1589 | - | -        | -   | -    |
| DE Mark         | 0.3791 | 0.381  | - | -        | -   | -    |
| CH Franc        | 0.4618 | 0.4641 | - | -        | -   | -    |
| FR Franc        | 0.1125 | 0.1131 | - | -        | -   | -    |
| JP Yen          | 0.5957 | 0.5987 | - | -        | -   | -    |
| NL Guilder      | 0.3365 | 0.3382 | - | -        | -   | -    |
| IT Lira         | 0.3885 | 0.3904 | - | -        | -   | -    |

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

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### Dune For Men

The Newest of Christian Dior

ESTRA TRADE Agents Establishment General Manager (Mad) Tayyab held a press conference during which he presented the new perfume of Christian Dior, Dune For Men, which is considered the freedom perfume that reminds of the Alma Mater, Verdiness and wood, and that man discovers through it a new world where nature is mixed with human spirit to unite in one.

This perfume is available in Eau de Toilet 100 ml., 50 ml., and 100 ml. after shave lotion.

It is now displayed at Estrat exhibition, the Gardens Street. Also available in limited quantities of the most popular perfume houses.

### Oqlah heads IPC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Starting Aug. 1, Muntasser Oqlah has become the new director of the Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC). Dr. Oqlah, who worked for 10 years at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has obtained his PhD degree in economics from Oklahoma University in 1987.



### THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

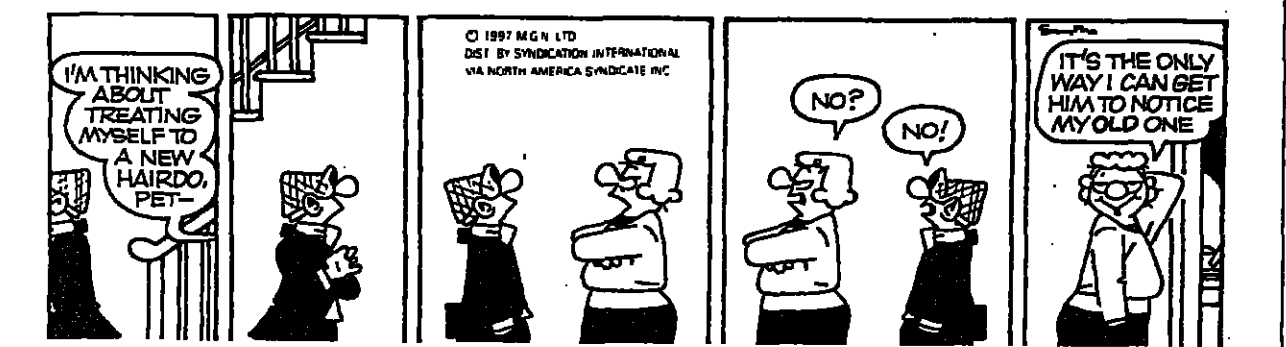
- Household members
- Hoofed mammal
- Evil
- Madonna role
- Miss Papas
- Beam
- Mediocre
- Wrath
- Timetable abbr.
- Embankment
- Pith helmets
- Ranges
- Actor Omar
- Principal
- Diplomat
- Faulty
- British ones
- Make public
- Solitary
- Ski lifts
- Thin Man's dog
- Boastful talk
- Snapshot
- Pinnacle
- Name in dancing
- "The Way We"
- Matt Dillon
- portrayed
- Lasso
- Macarena and twist
- Wine casks
- In the manner of
- Aesthetic pursuit
- Curt
- Zilch
- Sky pad
- Turn inside out
- Lighthearted
- Supports
- earth (captured)

DOWN

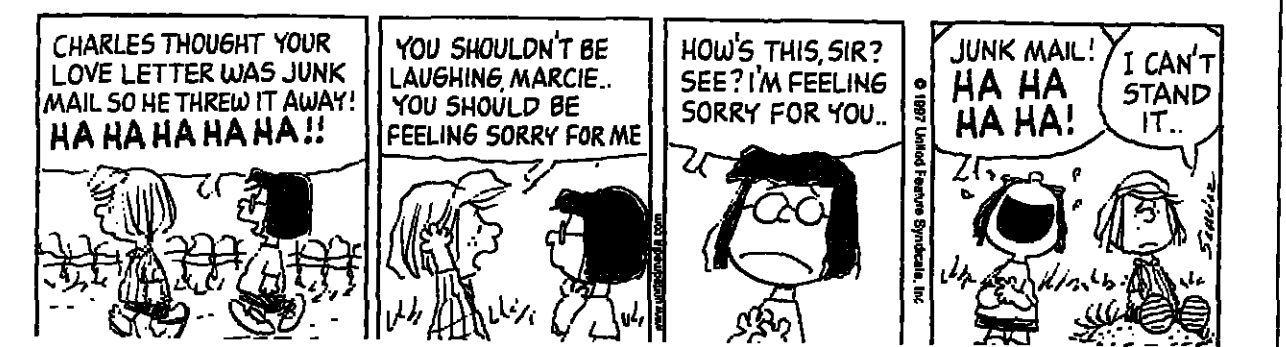
- Flat-topped elevations
- Ward off
- Small-scale
- From — Z
- Barry or Deion
- off (anger)
- City on the Phone
- Pod occupant
- Puts in office
- Spas
- Document carrier
- Swiss stream
- Changes the color
- Plate
- mater
- Flower holder
- Farm implement
- Vagrants
- Smashes
- OED word
- Kelp
- Extinct birds
- At once
- Hood's piece
- Farm machine
- Vicinity
- Parasitic plant
- Refrigerator item
- Rainbow
- Sea birds
- Denude

by Don Johnson

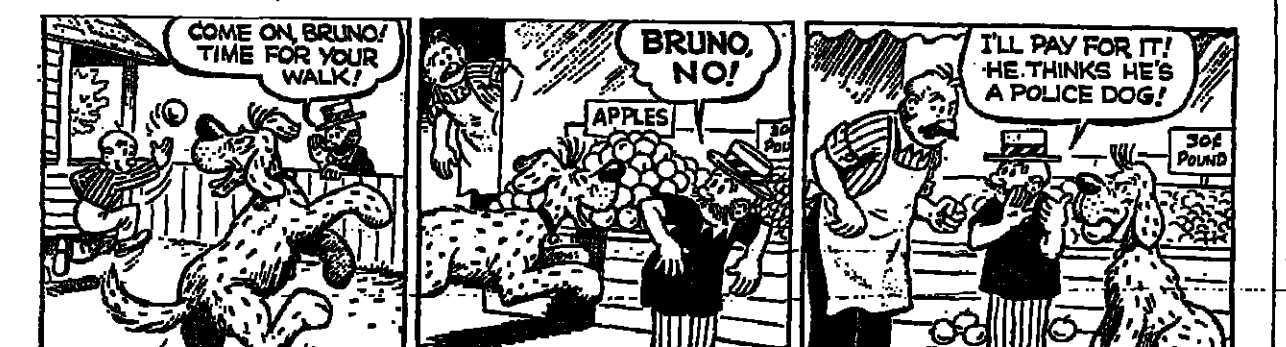
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE  
FORECAST  
FOR TUESDAY  
AUGUST 5, 1997  
By Thomas J. P.  
Astrologer, Canyon  
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you make any important plans today, be sure to wait them down, lest you get a bit frustrated at this time. don't lose your temper or you could be in quite a difficult situation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You should not try to pressure anyone today into going along with your idea otherwise you could find yourself in a tight spot at this time. offer your assistance to this person and thereby you will receive the beneficial results of his or her generosity.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you want that new idea to perform to your benefit today, get moving on it right away. Take it easy later this evening, and get plenty of rest thereby you can handle the hectic days which are ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle as many obligations as you can this morning, as you probably won't have time later in the day. Go along with your mate's wishes later this evening and you will notice that him or her is quite appreciative.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can come to an understanding with a difficult fellow associate early today. Stay at home later this evening, and get plenty of rest after a tiring day, thereby you can recharge your batteries for the days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Labour on making your home surroundings more charming and functional and thereby you can entertain many guests. Your career activities should be handled more slowly and carefully than usual, thereby you won't make any errors.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You should not take any unnecessary risks today, or you could lose out on a fine opportunity which could be quite beneficial. Be very serious when dealing with close friends so that you don't offend them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get your home in fine order early today, as you may want to entertain some friends there later. Show your devotion to your mate, by getting a special gift or taking him or her to a romantic spot you both will enjoy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Let anyone who is involved know what your plans for the days ahead are. Be sure to use great caution while out driving on the highway today or later this evening and thereby you can avoid any great difficulties.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get any practical chores out of the way early today, as an important business situation will require your full attention later this evening. This is a good time to meet with fellow associates and devise a plan of action.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your intuition is working fine today, so don't be afraid to rely on it if you become a bit confused with career activities. Think of your mate's needs before your own and thereby you will receive much appreciation.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Jordan Insurance Co.  
reports JD1.5m

JORDAN Insurance Co. reported a net profit during the year ended on March 31, 1997, of JD1.5 million, up from JD1.2 million in 1996. The company's earnings were 0.83 per cent lower than in 1996. According to the annual report, the company's investments which totalled JD20.6 million, increased by 3.8 per cent to JD21.5 million.

Jordan Paper and C  
factories Company  
JD5.65m in S

Jordan Paper and Cfactories Company reported a net profit during the year ended on March 31, 1997, of JD5.65 million, up from JD5.3 million in 1996. The company's earnings were 0.83 per cent lower than in 1996. According to the annual report, the company's investments which totalled JD20.6 million, increased by 3.8 per cent to JD21.5 million.

Balance sheet of  
Islamic Bank t  
JD618m

THE TOTAL balance sheet of Islamic Bank reached JD618 million at the end of last year with total assets standing at around JD600 million and total liabilities at around JD618 million. Of this net profit, the bank will be distributing a free bonus for each share as part of the measures to capital to JD22 million (34 per cent) to shareholders.

BETTER HALF.

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contains caffeine so your  
can't fall asleep while kissing

THAT SCRAMBL  
by Hani Amr

GAUZE FRUIT JIGGLE  
Putting us pickles can be th  
experience "JAR-RING"



# Business & Finance

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Jordan Insurance Company reports JD1.5m net profit

THE JORDAN Insurance Company generated about JD1.5m net profit during its financial year which closed on March 31, 1997 and the general assembly has approved the distribution of dividends at a rate of 12 per cent.

The company's earnings from premiums totalled JD12 million during the year but the amount was 0.84 per cent lower than the earnings during 1995-1996. According to Board Chairman Khalidoun Abu Hassan, the company continued to increase its investments which now total about JD11.4 million of which JD4.5 million are investments in shares, development bonds and other debentures.

According to the annual report, the company's balance sheet totalled JD20.6 million and shareholders' equity increased by 3.8 per cent to JD8.2 million (Al Aswaq).

### Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Company achieves JD5.65m in sales

SALES OF the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Company amounted JD5.65 million but after deducting operational costs, the gross profit stood at JD0.69 million. The net profit after accounting for general, administrative and selling expenses was down to JD0.53 million.

According to the annual report, retained earnings at the end of 1996 totalled JD1.43 million and total assets amounted to JD11.86 million. Total shareholders' equity stood at JD8.29 million.

Board Chairman Zuhair Asfour told the general assembly that there was no dividends for distribution because the company was investing in the newly-established Jordanian Company for Manufacturing Cardboard and Duplex. The investment amounts to 98 per cent in the new firm (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

### Balance sheet of Jordan Islamic Bank totals JD618m

THE TOTAL balance sheet figure posted by the Jordan Islamic Bank reached JD618.6 million at the end of last year with total deposits amounting to JD502.3 million and total financing and investments standing at around JD442 million.

According to the annual report, the bank generated JD5.6 million of net profit last year compared to a JD5.8 million net profit posted at the end of 1995. Of this net profit, the bank distributed dividends at a rate of 12 per cent. In addition, the bank will be distributing a quarter of a share as a free bonus for each share held by shareholders as part of the measures to increase the bank's capital to JD22 million (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq + Al Dustour).

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"It's special lipstick for married women. It contains caffeine so your husband won't fall asleep while kissing you."

### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OONNI  
PAWMS  
SIGAHR  
GIDINO

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumble: GAUZE FRUIT JIGGLE GUNNER  
Answer: Putting up pictures can be the kind of experience - "JAP-RING"

## Palestinian stock exchange evades Israeli closure

NABLUS (AFP) — The budding Palestinian Stock Exchange made an unplanned leap into the future Sunday with the introduction ahead of schedule of remote computerised trading to counter an Israeli security clampdown which prevented brokers from reaching their offices.

The Palestinian securities exchange said the first remote trading session was held via computer terminals in brokers' offices in Nablus and Ramallah on the West Bank.

"We managed to conduct a trading session today despite the Israeli closure," said Safwan Bataineh, director of the stock exchange.

Sunday's session had been in doubt because of travel restrictions imposed on Palestinians by Israel following a double suicide bombing last week in Jerusalem by suspected militants who killed 13 Israelis.

The security clampdown has sealed the borders between Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and prevented movement between autonomous West Bank enclaves like Ramallah and Nablus.

"We were supposed to start the remote trading at a later date but because of the closure we introduced the system today," Mr. Bataineh said.

"It was still emergency work however since many employees who normally commute from other towns were not able to reach our offices," he said.

"Against this backdrop of strangulation of basic human liberties and economic activities, the securities industry shall do its utmost to provide the best possible services to investors in an effort to maintain the flow of much needed capital to Palestinian companies," the stock exchange said in a statement.

The stock exchange was officially opened in February and began full trading in May. Mr. Bataineh said 24 firms are currently listed on the market with total capital expected to reach \$700 million by the end of the year.

In a related development Sunday the Palestinian Monetary Commission issued a statement complaining that the Israeli closure measures were seriously hampering the entire banking and financial sector.

The body said the travel restrictions had prevented the movement of currency between Israel, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jordan and caused delays in the clearing of many checks.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat appealed to the United Nations over the weekend for help in pressuring Israel to lift the clampdown, which he called a "declaration of war" against the entire Palestinian people.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended the measures Sunday at a meeting of his cabinet, saying Israel had to act against violent Palestinian militants because self-rule authority was not doing so.

## Companies struggling to protect their trademarks on Internet

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Companies around the world are desperately seeking a way to protect their trademarks on the Internet as they combat both pirates specialised in seizing site names, and legitimate claims to similar names by firms in other countries.

A conference in Washington last week on the electronic address distribution crisis tackled the thorny problem it described as a "collision of trademarks with Internet domain names."

Internet domain names, as addresses on that network are called, enable users to find their way on the web by entering the name of a company — such as AFP.com — or an acronym — such as Careerpath.com.

Those domain names can be extremely valuable assets. "Cybersquatters" were quick to realise they could make a quick buck by registering the names of companies that don't yet have a presence on the Internet and then selling the name to the company.

On top of that, companies run the risk that another firm with a similar name got the domain name first.

The British computer services company Prince PLC has faced the threat of being barred from using its name on the web, even though it had already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on the site, after a U.S. tennis racket manufacturer, Prince Corp. claimed worldwide rights to the domain name.

A British court ruled in favour of Prince PLC, citing legislation that foresees the "abuse of British trademarks." Internet consultant, John Wood, told the Washington Forum.

Mr. Wood is also concerned that a law enacted by some far-away nation could at some point bar a firm from using its own name in its web site address.

"There is in fact no worldwide law on intellectual property, nor is there a single organisation with the willingness to tackle these problems," the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organisation said in its web site.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### THE CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN PROOF AND UNCIRCULATED COIN SETS 1996

The Central Bank of Jordan has now available for sale proof and uncirculated coin sets dated 1996 which include eight denominations as from 3/8/1997 as follows:

| Specifications                      | Prices in JD |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Proof set in leather case           | 25           |
| Uncirculated set in cardboard cover | 6.5          |

### Petra & Quseir Amra Chosen as World Heritage Sites.

AN INTERNATIONAL photo competition has been launched, organised by UNESCO, AGFA and LUFTHANSA. The competition has been created to mark the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, by turning the international spotlight on the world's natural and cultural sites.

No competition of this type has ever been organised on such a scale. Dr. Abdulqader El-Atar/Director of UNESCO Office-Amman, explained that the World Heritage Convention was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in its 17th Session, Paris, 1972, as a unique legal instrument for promoting the restoration, conservation and safeguarding of historic and natural heritage of outstanding universal value all over the world.

To be accredited, a site must have outstanding universal value as regards art, history, science or merely beauty. Today the Seven Wonders of Antiquity have become 506 properties (380 cultural sites, 107 natural sites and 19 mixed sites) inscribed on the World Heritage List and in particular Petra & Quseir Amra. These sites extend through five continents and offer countless opportunities for photographers to take rare and beautiful pictures. In Jordan Petra & Quseir Amra have been selected among the 506 sites included in the list. Mr. Foteh Tleel, the AGFA representative in Jordan explained that this competition represents a true challenge to the world's photographers—amateur or professional—to take pictures of any of the 506 designated sites on the World Heritage List.

There will be 350 exciting prizes. The first will be a journey right around the world for 2 persons, visiting cultural capitals on 3 continents. The prize includes flights with LUFTHANSA & United Airlines, accommodation in Hilton Hotels, pocket money, AGFA photographic material & processing, and welcome by UNESCO representatives.

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## WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Kipketer strolls through opening round

ATHENS (R) — Dane Wilson Kipketer gave the thumbs up after strolling through the opening round of the 800 metres on the third day of the World Championships on Monday.

The Kenyan-born Dane, who refused permission to compete in last year's Atlanta Olympics because of wrangles over his nationality, clocked one minute 46.34 seconds and hardly raised a sweat in his early morning race despite sweltering conditions.

He gave the thumbs-up sign after crossing the line and should find life just as easy in the next two rounds on Tuesday and Wednesday. Friday's final might not be all that difficult either for the defending

champion.

"It's okay out there. I wanted to lead from the front because I did not want any accidents," he said. Then Kipketer, who last month equalled Sebastian Coe's 16-year-old world record of 1:41.73, added: "I've only started my job. I still have many things to learn."

Norwegian Vebjørn Rodal of Norway, who won the Olympic title in Kipketer's absence, was another easy winner, overtaking Burundi's Arhemnon Hatungimana in the last few metres to take his heat in 1:47.58.

With the first four in each heat and the four fastest losers qualifying for the second

round, there were no upsets in the event.

Apart from two heats in the women's 10 kms walk, the only other action on Monday morning came in the heptathlon long jump.

Sabine Braun of Germany, the 1991 world champion and the overnight leader, saw her lead cut after the long jump, but avoided the nightmare that cost her Olympic gold last year.

In Atlanta she jumped only 6.21 metres in the long jump which saw her drop from third overnight then to seventh where she eventually finished.

But on Monday she cleared a respectable 6.42 metres and stayed in first place with 4,990 points with

Medal standings at the World Championships after Sunday's finals.

| Country          | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1. United States | 2    | 1      | 1      | 4     |
| 2. Ukraine       | 1    | 2      | -      | 3     |
| 3. Germany       | 1    | -      | 1      | 2     |
| 4. Mexico        | 1    | -      | -      | 1     |
| 5. Russia        | -    | 1      | 1      | 2     |
| 6. Canada        | -    | 1      | -      | 1     |
| 7. Bahamas       | -    | -      | 1      | 1     |
| 8. Belarus       | -    | -      | 1      | 1     |

the javelin and 800 to come later on Monday. Denise Lewis of Britain, the bronze medalist in Atlanta closed the gap on Braun at the top by 17 points after her 6.47 long jump, and has 4,885 points, just 105 points fewer than Braun.

Remegiya Nazaroviene of Lithuania was in third place with 4,875 points.

Four gold medals were being decided later on Monday the heptathlon, the women's triple jump and 400 metres and the men's 400 metres hurdles.

## New era in sprinting unveiled as Greene, Jones win 100 metres

### Gun shoots down Ottey's last chance

### Troubled Masterkova loses race against time

ATHENS (AFP) — A new era in sprinting was unveiled here at the World Championships on Sunday when 21-year-old Marion Jones and 23-year-old Maurice Greene became 100m champions.

It was a dramatic changing of the old guard — Jones replacing the 30-year-old Gail Devers and Greene the 29-year-old Donovan Bailey.

Jones did not have the satisfaction of dethroning Devers in a head to head, the American unable to compete here because of injury but Greene out-sprinted Bailey to leave the Canadian in second place and a former world champion.

But the women's 100m final will go down in history as one of the most chaotic in the sport's history.

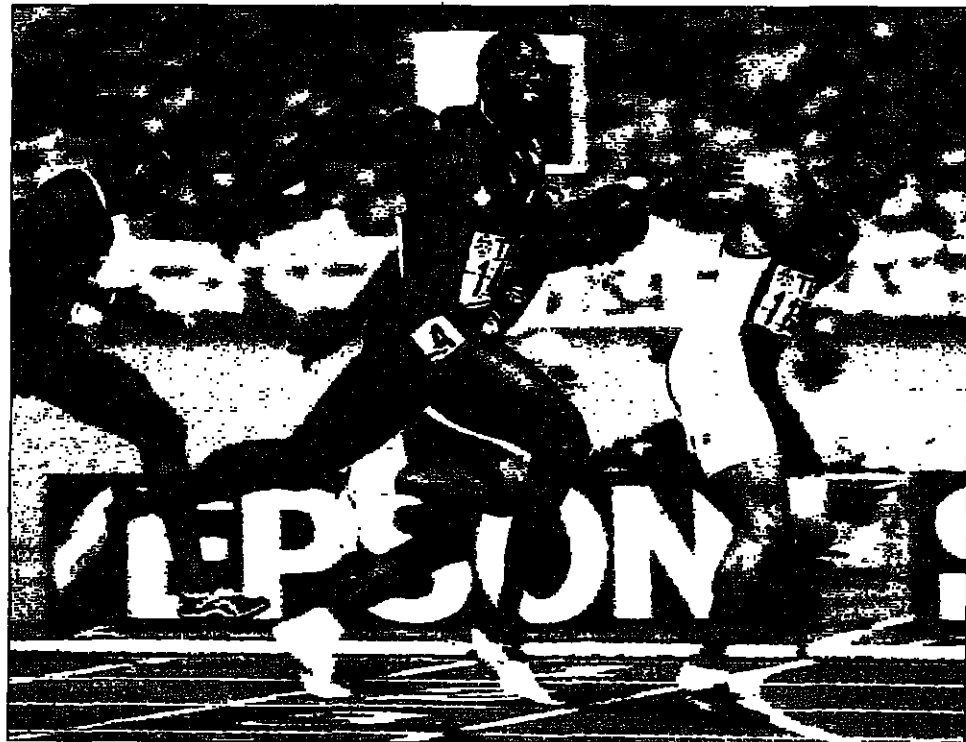
Jones just edged the Ukrainian Zhanna Pintusevich but Pintusevich was convinced she had snatched the race with her final stride.

She immediately set off on a lap of honour, besieged by photographers. A stunned Jones stood by the side of the track, staring at the giant television screen, waiting for a replay.

With Pintusevich on her knees on the far side of the track weeping with joy the screen suddenly confirmed Jones was the new world champion in 10.83, a personal best, and the Ukrainian second in 10.85secs.

Sevatheda Fynes of the Bahamas was third in 11.03.

But even before the race began there was drama when Merlene Ottey's hopes of winning her first



Maurice Greene of the United States (R) crosses the finish line in the 100 metres event at the 6th IAAF World Athletics Championships. Greene won the gold medal in a time of 9.86 seconds ahead of Canada's Donovan Bailey (C) (Reuters photo)

ever world championship 100m gold ended with a false start.

The 37-year-old Ottey did not hear the recall and hit the 50m mark before she realised she was the only one running.

She dragged herself back to the start, walking so slowly that two 100 metre races could have been run by the time she reached her blocks.

But despite trying to regroup her race was shot and her dreams of adding a 100m gold to the two 200m titles she has won seem beyond her reach now, the Jamaican being 39 when the next World Championships are held in Seville.

Modern technology has

cost Ottey dear, with her two narrow photo finish defeats to Jones' American compatriot Gail Devers in the 1993 world final and the 1996 Olympics.

And now in what must be her farewell from the top table a gun has ended her 100 metres agony — in the least humane possible way.

Greene had no such drama. He simply underlined that there was a new king on the block when he held off defending champion Bailey to cross the line in 9.86secs.

Bailey clocked 9.91 with American Tim Montgomery, taking the bronze in 9.94 seconds.

"I knew I could be the number one man in the world," said a beaming

Greene afterwards.

The defending and Olympic champion Derrick Adkins joined the list of stars who have gone crashing out of the World Athletics Championships when he failed to reach the 400m hurdle final here on Sunday.

The 27-year-old from the United States faltered badly over the final 20 metres and could do no better than finish fifth in his semi-final heat.

"It is a real comedown. You are Olympic champion one year and the next you are an also ran," said Adkins.

Olympic champion Svetlana Masterkova slumped out of the championships when the ankle that

has plagued her since she arrived here finally gave way.

The 29-year-old pulled up on the final straight in her 1,500m semi-final heat and limped over the line, head bowed.

The Russian had to be helped off the track by an official and was eventually put on a stretcher and taken off for treatment in the Olympic stadium medical centre.

It was heartbreaking finish for the woman who pulled off the 800m-1,500m double at the Atlanta Olympics last year. Masterkova has been plagued by injuries ever since she burst on the track scene as a 16-year-old.

Only her steely determination has seen her overcome a host of problems apparently caused by weak bone structure.

The latest injury now casts serious doubts on her future.

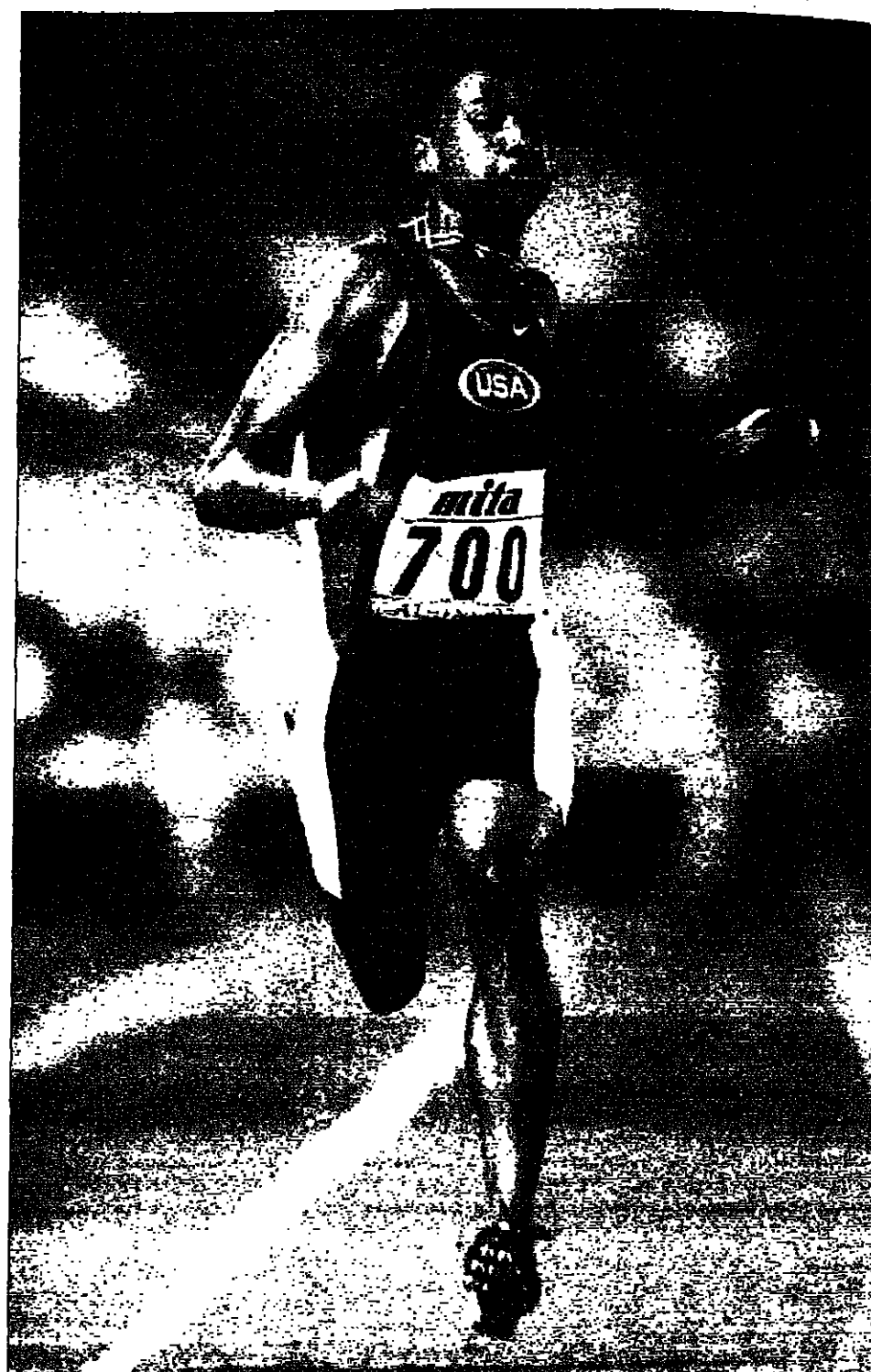
Germany's Heinz Weis added the hammer title to the title he won in the European Cup last month with a last throw of 81.78 metres.

Andrei Sakvaruk of the Ukraine took the silver and Vassili Sidorenko of Russia the bronze.

Weis, who took bronze in the 1991 final, took the lead with a third throw of 80.24 only to fall behind Sidorenko who threw 80.38 on his next.

But Weis threw 81.14m to go back on top with his fifth throw and clinched the title on his final one to take the gold.

Sakvaruk's last throw of 81.46 allowed him to squeeze past Sidorenko.



American Marion Jones crosses the finish line winning the women's 100m final at the World Championships. Jones won with a time of 10.83 seconds (Reuters photo)

## IAAF's Nebiolo blames Greek organisers for public no-show

ATHENS (AFP) — International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) President Primo Nebiolo blamed poor organisation by local officials for the lack of spectators at the 100 metre finals at the world championships on Sunday night.

The Olympic stadium was half empty for the blue ribbon event of athletics despite the fact that the Greek organisers had said beforehand the event had been sold out.

"It was very disappointing," said Nebiolo on Monday.

"The organisers did not do a great promotional job before the championships. They did not understand," he added.

Nebiolo's remarks are sure to upset the Greeks, especially as Athens is attempting to win the right to host the 2004 Olympics.

With five cities still bidding, the vote of who wins the Games is to be taken in

Lausanne by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) next month.

Athens is one of the firm favourites, along with Rome, whose bid is being led by Nebiolo, but any suggestion that the Greek capital would be unable to host the Olympics could prove costly.

The IAAF president made his public criticism in front of IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, which will further annoy the Greeks.

With the championships only three days old there is growing concern about the lack of spectators.

On the opening day there were almost more athletes than spectators and Nebiolo admitted that it is bad for the image of the sport when the television pictures being sent around the world show an empty stadium.

Athens is attempting to use the World Championships to

prove the Greeks' ability to host a major event and organisers gone to extreme lengths to make it work.

But with so much riding on the success of the championships any slip could prove fatal in their Olympic bid.

Yet many of the American athletes here are delighted by the crowds.

"This is great. You try running in the States. There is nobody watching you. Here there is," said Marion Jones, the new world 100m champion.

And the lack of support for athletics in the United States has led the IAAF to create a special aid programme to try to promote the sport in America.

"America is the most important country in the world. They have the best athletes but the sport is 25th in popularity, behind billiards. We must do everything we can to help," said Nebiolo.



Erica Alfriedi of Italy cools herself during the first round of the 10000 metres walk at the Athletics World Championships. Alfriedi finished the race in second place (Reuters photo)

## Bubka considering Swedish move for sons' tennis

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Pole vault champion Sergei Bubka is considering moving from Monaco to Sweden to further his two sons' tennis careers, the Ukrainian told Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter on Monday.

Bubka, who holds 35

world records and has won five straight World Championships, has close ties to the country — he owns a travel agency in Stockholm and is backing the city's 2004 Olympic bid.

His two sons, 12-year old Vitaly and 10-year old Sergei, currently

train in Monaco with famous Australian coach Bob Brett, who once coached Boris Becker.

But the Bubkas see Sweden, home to tennis greats Bjorn Borg, Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg, as an advantageous place to

train because of its "good system and good coaches."

"My wife and I are talking about (moving to Sweden). It could happen in the future," he said, adding: "We're looking into how to give them better opportunities for their tennis."

Bubka, 34, is currently vying for his sixth straight gold medal at the World Athletics Championships in Athens, his first competition after undergoing Achilles heel surgery in December.

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## Woodruff completes dream week at Canadian Open

MONTREAL (R) — Unseeded American Chris Woodruff clinaxed a dream week of tennis on Sunday by claiming his fifth consecutive seeded scalp and first career title with a victory over sixth seed Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil at the Canadian Open.

The 57th-ranked Woodruff will see his ranking jump to about 30th in the world, according to ATP tour officials, after completing his grand-slam role with a 7-5 4-6 6-3 victory over the French Open champion.

The former U.S. collegiate champion from the University of Tennessee saved a match point in his opening contest against 16th seed Jon Stemerink and never looked back.

Following that close call, he knocked out second seed Goran Ivanisevic, seventh seed Mark Philippoussis and fourth seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov, before finishing off with Kuerten.

"Right now, I feel it's my biggest accomplishment in tennis so far," said the 24-year-old Woodruff, who collected \$337,000 for his considerable efforts.

The 20-year-old Kuerten, who exploded onto the world stage with his stunning run at the French Open this year, had been sensational in demolishing top-seed Michael Chang 6-3 6-1 in Saturday's semifinal.

But Woodruff used aggressive tactics and a much-improved serve to keep the colourful Kuerten, who was outfitted in Brazilian blue and gold, at bay.

"I've really been working

on my serve, hitting lots of bucketfuls of balls at home and it's really paid off at this tournament," said Woodruff, who belted 18 aces, many at critical times in the match.

The packed stands were dotted with Brazilian flags and enthusiastic Kuerten supporters and Woodruff appeared a bit unsettled early in only his third career final as he double faulted to lose his serve.

But gradually Woodruff's confidence surged and he began to dominate the rallies, breaking back to tie the opening set 4-4 and coming up with another service break to close it out.

"Several players told me that he hits the heaviest ball on the tour so I decided I would try to rush him," Woodruff said.

"I saw Michael (Chang) playing him and I thought he was a little passive," added Woodruff. "I wanted to step inside the baseline and force the issue."

Woodruff was successful at his game plan, controlling the pace by hitting his ground stroke early and returning serve with authority to keep Kuerten out of his game.

"Chris didn't give me too much time to hit," Kuerten said. "I couldn't hit so hard because I was always only blocking the ball back."

Woodruff again went down a service again in the second set and this time failed to get it back as Kuerten levelled the match, forcing a third set.

But the American controlled the key points in the final set. And this time it was Woodruff who claimed



Chris Woodruff of the U.S. serves during his match against Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten at the finals of the Du Maurier Canadian Open in Montreal. Woodruff defeated Kuerten 7-5 4-6 6-3 to win the tournament (Reuters photo)

the critical early service break and later finished off the match by belting his 18th ace.

"Everybody who saw me play against Chang may

think that I played bad today," Kuerten said, "but I played good and he just played better."

Still, for reaching the final with a win over the

second-ranked Chang, Kuerten will become the first Brazilian man ever ranked in the world's top-10 when new rankings are released Monday.

## Ronaldo and Kanu ready for Bologna

MILAN (AFP) — Inter Milan are preparing to field both Ronaldo and Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu in their friendly against Bologna on Tuesday night, in the Brazilian's first real test in Italy.

Ronaldo played only the first 17 minutes in his debut against Manchester United last month, a symbolic appearance for the San Siro faithful in the Pirelli Cup.

Now coach Gigi Simoni is planning to use the 20-year-old Brazilian ace for about an hour against Roberto Baggio's Bologna, and Kanu for around half an hour. The two men may play together for a spell up front.

"We're playing against quality opposition," Simoni said, but admitted he would

be experimenting with his team tactics.

"I've got an idea of how we should play, but it's only right to give everyone a chance to make me change my mind."

"Other teams, like Juventus and Lazio, have had plenty of practice and therefore have an advantage. We've still got to experiment."

Ronaldo is expected to start alongside Maurizio Ganz, Inter's top scorer last season, with Argentines Diego Simeone and Javier Zanetti, Brazilian Ze Elias and Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff in midfield.

The coming weeks are designed to show whether the gifted Djorkaeff would be better used as a playmaker behind two strikers,

with the added duty of defending in midfield, or whether he should replace Ganz.

After the Bologna match, Ronaldo will have a day-long workout at Inter's Appiano Gentile training base on Wednesday, before flying out to join the rest of the Brazilian national squad for their tour of Asia.

Kanu, who made an emotional return at San Siro after undergoing heart surgery in the United States last November, is meanwhile determined to win himself a first-team place.

The striker, who last year won the Olympic title with Nigeria — just weeks before his heart condition was discovered — said: "If I'm at 100 per cent, I'm sure I'm going to play."

## Inzaghi strikes twice as Juve beat Newcastle

CESENA, Italy (R) — New signing Filippo Inzaghi scored twice as Juventus continued their centenary celebrations with a 3-2 defeat of English side Newcastle on Sunday.

Inzaghi, who joined the Italian champions after finishing last season with Atalanta as Serie A's top marksman, scored Juve's second and third goals as the Italian champions cruised to a 3-0 half-time lead.

Defender Ciro Ferrara had put the Italian champions 1-0 up after just 55 seconds.

Colombian Faustino Asprilla scored twice for Newcastle after the break — once from the penalty spot and once with a searing strike from 25 metres — but Juventus played out a comfortable victory in front of around 25,000 fans

in Cesena, near Italy's Adriatic coast.

"It feels great to celebrate the 100th anniversary with two goals in my first match for Juventus," Inzaghi said.

Juventus played the match in pink shirts, the colour of their original kit from the late 19th century, while Newcastle played in the black and white stripes which both sides have made famous.

The Italian side, who last month celebrated their centenary with a festival at their Delle Alpi Stadium, adopted their black and white kit from England's Notts County early this century.

Juve plan another celebration on November 1, the exact date of their foundation in Turin in 1897.

## Hingis claims 9th title of the year

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Martina Hingis conquered second seeded Monica Seles 7-6 (7/4) 6-4 here Sunday to claim her 9th WTA Tour title of the year.

Hingis has now won 54 of 55 matches this season — her only loss against Croatia's Iva Majoli in the French Open final. She has also won all four of her encounters with Seles this year and her latest success earned her \$79,000 while Seles took home \$36,000.

Hingis was forced to counter-punch against the more aggressive groundstrokes of Seles, and also had to contend with some excellent serves from the World No. 3. But Seles lacked consistency. She struck six aces, but five double-faults, and two of those double-faults came at a crucial stage.

Seles had failed to capitalise on two break points in the third game, and when she broke to lead 4-3 she allowed Hingis to immediately break back. Seles then broke again to serve for the first set at 5-4, but hit two double-faults, a tentative serve that Hingis gladly returned for a winner, and a backhand error to drop her serve to love.

Hingis then took the tiebreaker, and although she failed to win five break points

in the second set, she finally broke to lead 5-4 when Seles netted a double-handed backhand. She then served out to love for the match.

"She played her best tennis ever against me today. I don't know how I won the match. I was just hanging in there," said Hingis, who revealed that Seles is the toughest rival she has faced so far in her career.

"She was the offensive player and I was on the defensive. The tiebreaker was really important, and lucky for me I got ahead early."

Seles was subdued after her fourth defeat in four finals this year, and admitted she had given her opponent too many opportunities.

"A few times she had to play some great shots, but other times I gave it to her," Seles confessed.

"She played better than me on the key points, and she didn't give me any free points like I gave her."

Hingis now goes after her third title in as many weeks as she moves on to Los Angeles — her final tournament before the U.S. Open.

## Manchester United down Chelsea on penalties

LONDON (R) — Manchester United beat Chelsea 4-2 on penalties to win the Charity Shield on Sunday after English soccer's traditional season-opener ended in a scrappy 1-1 draw.

Former United striker Mark Hughes put Chelsea ahead in the Wembley friendly between the league champions and F.A. Cup Winners, nodding in a cross from Italian international Gianfranco Zola in the 52nd minute.

But Ruud Gullit's cosmopolitan London side enjoyed only five minutes of celebration before Norway's Ronny Johnsen headed in a Ryan Giggs corner for the equaliser with United showing off new signing Teddy Sheringham and Chelsea parading tough Uruguayan midfielder Gustavo Poyet, the game proved evenly balanced with neither side able to turn on the skill for a capacity Wembley crowd.

But when it came to the shootout United showed their mettle and poise. They put away all four of their penalties as Chelsea squandered two.

Frank Sinclair's effort was easily saved by Peter Schmeichel, diving to his right, while Italian international Roberto Di Matteo, hero of

last May's Cup final when he scored a goal after 45 seconds, blasted his shot over the bar.

Paul Scholes, Denis Irwin and Roy Keane scored for United enabling Nicky Butt to fire in the winner.

Neither side looked on top of their form in the first half, with passes going astray and chances missed.

Gullit, who put himself off the bench but did not play, said afterwards the game was a "festival of bad passes, bad mistakes. It was not a good game."

Sheringham, under enormous pressure to fill the boots of the departed United hero Eric Cantona, was busy but failed to connect to a Giggs free kick in the 10th minute and had shots blocked by young Chelsea back Danny Granville in the first half and by Poyet in the second.

Poyet, himself, failed to connect after a piece of Italian magic between Di Matteo and Gianfranco Zola put the ball at his feet six metres out.

And the ever-resourceful Zola also blew a golden chance as the rain fell in the dying moments of the match. More Italian wizardry between Gianluca Vialli, brought on as substitute for Hughes, and Di Matteo gave

Zola the ball just outside the area but he shot wide as Schmeichel advanced.

Four players were shown yellow cards, including Chelsea's explosive captain Denis Wise who developed an on-field feud with Sheringham littered with pushing and posturing.

Sheringham was cautioned for flattening Steve Clarke with his elbow and United skipper Roy Keane was booked after he felled Poyet with a flying kick to the face.

Gullit and United coach Alex Ferguson, relaxed and chatting happily to each other during the shoot-out, will be content no one got badly hurt before the serious stuff starts with the first premier league matches next weekend. Gullit said he was not disappointed to lose what he called the "lottery" of the shootout, adding: "We know we can cope with the best in England as we proved during the second half of last season."

Ferguson, who said Chelsea would be one of the sides to watch in the coming season, added his team had not felt fully fit after a recent energy-sapping far-eastern tour. "But next week I think we will be in better shape," he added.

## Martinez leads Expos to win

MONTREAL (R) — Pedro Martinez hurled a three-hitter for his Major League-leading 10th complete game to carry the Montreal Expos to a 6-3 victory over the San Diego Padres on Sunday.

In Chicago, Sammy Sosa's two-out, two-run homer into the left-field bleachers off closer Todd Worrell in the bottom of the 12th inning lifted the Cubs to a dramatic 4-3 victory over the 10s Angeles Dodgers.

In Cincinnati, Darryl Hamilton's RBI single with one out in the top of the 10th inning ignited a five-run explosion as the San Francisco Giants beat the Reds 8-3.

At Florida, Devon White had four hits and three RBI to lead the Marlins to an 8-4 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

In Houston, Craig Biggio hit a two-run homer in the seventh and scored the winning run in the ninth as the Astros edged the New York Mets 3-2.

In Philadelphia, Mark Leiter pitched a complete-game seven-hitter and Kevin Seifert and Scott Rolen homered in a five-run third inning that propelled the Phillies to a 10-1 rout of the St. Louis Cardinals.

In Pittsburgh, Kevin Polcovich had a two-run double and Tony Womack added a two-run homer in a five-run eighth inning that lifted the Pirates to an 8-4 win over the Colorado Rockies.

| National League |    |             |                |
|-----------------|----|-------------|----------------|
| Montreal        | 6  | San Diego   | 3              |
| Philadelphia    | 10 | St. Louis   | 1              |
| Pittsburgh      | 8  | Colorado    | 4              |
| San Francisco   | 8  | Cincinnati  | 3 (10 Innings) |
| Houston         | 3  | New York    | 2              |
| Florida         | 8  | Atlanta     | 4              |
| Chicago         | 4  | Los Angeles | 3 (12 Innings) |

| American League |   |           |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------|---|
| Detroit         | 5 | Toronto   | 2 |
| New York        | 6 | Minnesota | 2 |
| Kansas City     | 5 | Boston    | 2 |
| Seattle         | 6 | Milwaukee | 5 |
| Baltimore       | 7 | Oakland   | 5 |
| Anaheim         | 4 | Chicago   | 1 |
| Texas           | 8 | Cleveland | 7 |

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## VACANCY FOR A TRANSLATOR

The Embassy of Pakistan has a vacancy for a translator from English into Arabic and vice versa. Qualified people only can apply in person at the embassy compound, Jabal Luweibdeh, Al-Shari'ah College Street, no later than Aug. 15, 1997.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YAMNAN HIRSH

### A MATTER OF TIMING

Both vulnerable West deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 5 4 3  
♥ 10 9 3  
♦ A J 10 9 4  
♣ J

**WEST**  
♠ 10 8 7 6 2  
♥ Q 7 5  
♦ 7 6 3  
♣ 8 3

**EAST**  
♠ A  
♥ Q 8 6 2  
♦ Q 8 5  
♣ A Q 7 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q J 3  
♥ A K 4  
♦ K 2  
♣ K 10 9 8 5

The bidding:  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
Pass Pass 1♠ Pass  
Pass 3NT Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

There are many reasons why you should prefer one finesse over another, or whether you should take a finesse immediately or first cash a high card in the suit. Communication between declarer and dummy was the crucial factor in this deal from a team match.

We are not enthralled by North's raise to three no trump, even though that would not have allowed

the final contract. A cue-bid of two clubs is an attempt to locate a 4-4 spade fit. It would have been a mere prudent approach.

At both tables West ignored partner's opening bid and led a low spade, taken by East's queen. The switch was to a heart, disturbed by declarer and won by West's jack. The heart return was taken in the closed hand, and here the declarers parted ways.

One cashed the king of diamonds and continued with a diamond to the ten, losing to East's queen. Another heart came back and, sure declarer had to overtake a spade honor in dummy to enjoy the diamonds, there were only eight tricks. East grabbed the use of clubs at the first opportunity to cash the queen of hearts — down one.

At the other table declarer led a low diamond to the fourth trick and finessed the nine. The defense had no counter. East could not afford to duck since, as the cards lie, that would allow declarer to run the whole suit. But after East took the queen and returned a heart, declarer won, cashed the queen and jack of spades, then overtook the king of diamonds with the ace to score four diamond tricks and the king of spades in dummy.

## INVEST IN JORDAN

### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN ACQUIRING 51% OF THE SHARES OF IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY COMPANY (IDECO), JORDAN

The Government of Jordan ("GOJ") has commenced a privatisation programme to introduce private sector participation in all sectors, especially infrastructure. As a part of this programme, GOJ has begun the reform of its electric power industry with the objective of creating a suitable environment for the sustainable development of the electric power, strengthening financial viability of the sector and improving the efficiency and quality of electricity services in the country. A high priority is being given to the attraction of private sector investment and expertise in power generation and distribution.

Jordan Investment Corporation ("JIC") invites expressions of interest from local and overseas investors for the acquisition of 51% of the shares of IDECO, equivalent to 1,542,540 shares. In the event that the interested party is a foreign investor, it is required that the investment be made by a consortium in which there is a minimum participation of 10% of the total shares of IDECO by a Jordanian investor in this consortium. Candidates may be electricity distribution companies, electricity operators with financial investors, financial investors who can procure electricity industry expertise, or other suitable parties.

IDECO holds a concession to distribute electricity in Irbid, Ajloun, Jerash and Mafrq governorates, which includes the provision to enter the field of generation. New industrial projects are focusing on the northern region of Jordan. Average annual industrial consumption in IDECO's coverage area has doubled from 1992 to 1996. In 1995 and 1996, electricity supplied was 576 million kWh and 642 million kWh respectively, an increase of 11.5%. Sales in 1995 and 1996 was \$26.8 million and \$32 million respectively, and net profit before tax in 1995 and 1996 was \$762,841 and \$876,448 respectively.

Interested parties should express interest by submitting:

1. A one page summary of experience in the electricity industry, or a plan to procure electricity industry expertise; and
2. Most recent annual report or financial statement or other evidence of financial eligibility; to:

**Mr. Basem Al-Azhari**  
Transaction Manager  
Assistant Managing Director, Finance  
National Electric Power Company (NEPCO)  
P.O. Box (2310) 11181  
Amman, Jordan  
Telephone: 858615 (from overseas: 962-6-858615)  
Cellular telephone: 079-28568 (from overseas: 962-79-28568)  
Fax: 818336 (from overseas: 962-6-818336)

by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 1997. Eligible parties will be given further information by Wednesday, October 1, to enable them to submit a bid for 51% of the shares of IDECO.



# Jewish settlers get big part of Israel's housing budget

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's housing ministry has spent almost 20 per cent of its budget on settlements in the West Bank while residents there represent only 2.5 per cent of the population, an official report said Monday.

The rightwing government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has financed the construction of 1,398 units in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, excluding Arab east Jerusalem, the ministry said.

"This represents 19 per cent of the total projects under construction," Moshe Eliat, a spokesman for the ministry, said.

In addition, the housing ministry is to finance the construction of 6,500 settlement units at Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem which prompted angry Palestinians to suspend

peace talks in March. The budget does not include private construction in the settlements.

The government asked the Israeli parliament last week for \$16 million in additional funding to build infrastructure for Jewish settlements.

The anti-settlement movement "Peace Now" has protested the priority given to settlement expansion.

"Because of the tension and deadlock in the peace process, this kind of decision threatens to touch off an explosion of violence and further aggravates the crisis with the Palestinians and Arab World," the group said in a statement.

About 145,000 Israelis live in the 144 settlements dotted along the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## State-run broadcaster refuses to jam Palestinian frequencies

TEL AVIV (AP) — The state-run Israeli Broadcasting Authority (IBA) refused a government request to jam Palestinian radio and television broadcasts, an Israeli official said Monday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government said it would block the Palestinian broadcasts as punishment for last week's twin suicide bombings in a Jerusalem market that killed 13 Israelis.

But Voice of Palestine Radio and Palestine Television — run by the Palestinian National Authority — have continued to broadcast.

Mr. Netanyahu's top aide David Bar-Ilan said the government needed the IBA in order to block the Palestinian broadcasts. "The government doesn't own its own equipment, except through the IBA," he said.

Mr. Bar-Ilan confirmed a report in the Israeli newspaper Maariv that said IBA Director Motti Kirshenbaum had refused the request.

"IBA's business is broadcasting and not jamming," Maariv quoted Mr. Kirshenbaum as saying. Mr. Kirshenbaum was out of the country Monday, and a spokesman for IBA refused comment. The Netanyahu government has had a shaky relationship with IBA since the government-funded broadcasters reported in January that his government was involved in an influence-trading scandal.

The French-based "Reporters Without Borders" sent a letter to Mr. Netanyahu Monday to complain about the order to censor the Palestinian press.

Israel had said it would close down Arab newspapers it deemed anti-Israeli as well.

## Iraq urges U.N. arms chief to beware of U.S., Kuwait

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq urged U.N. disarmament chief Richard Butler on Monday to beware of U.S. and Kuwaiti intentions toward Baghdad if he wants to maintain a good working relationship.

U.N. biological arms experts, meanwhile, wound up a week-long mission during which they met Iraqi officials and visited sites placed under supervision.

"Statements are not enough to create a good climate in relations between the U.N. Special Commission and Iraq," said the official daily Al Thawra, referring to UNSCOM which is in charge of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"For UNSCOM to be truly impartial, Mr. Butler must bear in mind that two parties are determined to poison relations between UNSCOM and Iraq," the paper said.

"The United States and

Kuwait, enemies of Iraq, are trying to torpedo the relationship," it said. "That is why Mr. Butler must remain objective when he receives information on Iraq from U.S. and Kuwaiti sources."

Mr. Butler, who took over at the start of July as UNSCOM chairman, has vowed to be "fair" with Iraq and steer clear of politics, while hailing what he called a "new spirit of cooperation."

But for Iraq, Al Thawra stressed, the UNSCOM arms inspectors must respect the country's sovereignty and security.

"A positive relationship cannot be built by one side alone... and the bridges of confidence destroyed by [Butler's predecessor Rolf] Ekeus cannot be restored by Iraq alone, but by Iraq and UNSCOM together," it added.

In late June, the U.N. Security Council threatened

new sanctions against Baghdad if it continued to block arms inspections on the grounds of respect for its sovereignty.

But no incidents have been reported since Mr. Butler took over from Mr. Ekeus, who was a hate figure in Iraq.

The UNSCOM team of nine germ warfare inspectors, led by Gabriele Kraatz-Wadsack of Germany, left Iraq on Monday at the end of a mission which was also free of incident, a U.N. source said.

Both Mr. Butler and Mr. Ekeus have said the biological weapons file was of special concern to the UNSCOM mission.

U.N. sanctions were slapped on Baghdad for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. An oil embargo cannot be lifted until UNSCOM has eliminated Iraq's biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programmes as well as long-range missiles.

## Nuba faces genocide in Sudan — report

NAIROBI (AFP) — The Nuba people of central Sudan are facing genocide at the hands of government forces despite the signing of an April peace agreement, a leading human rights group warned Monday.

"Bomber aircraft and helicopter gunships have attacked civilian targets, dozens of villages have been burnt, together with all the foodstocks of their inhabitants and hundreds of civilians have been killed," the London-based group African Rights (AR) charged in a statement faxed to AFP here.

AR warned two years ago that the Nuba, a group of non-Arab people in central Sudan, faced attack by government forces fighting rebels in southern Sudan.

The Nuba have since faced elimination campaigns aimed at educated people and community leaders, the systematic burning of villages, and the abduction of rural people into "peace camps" that surround garrison towns, the group said.

A faction of the Nuba people broke with the southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in April and signed a peace agreement with Khartoum.

But AR said Monday the situation had not changed.

In recent months: "Thousands have been forcibly abducted and taken to 'peace camps,' where women are raped and men forcibly conscripted into the militia, while tens of thousands face destitution and famine," the group said.

AR said that during the same week when President Omar Al Bashir signed the peace agreements, government troops "were planting landmines around a newly established army garrison at Um Dulu (in the Nuba mountains), after burning all the surrounding villages in the previous six weeks and driving away the people."

Noting that the Sudan government is enforcing a strict embargo on humanitarian assistance to the area, AR charged: "In this context, the Sudan army creates displacement and famine, creates desolation and calls it peace." The SPLA has continued its 14-year-old campaign against Khartoum to free the mainly Christian and animist south from the largely Muslim, Arabised north. The conflict has cost an estimated one million lives.



DESPITE ALL ODDS: A colourful clown waves Sunday under a Palestinian flag as an international arts festival opens in the West Bank city of Ramallah. The festival opened despite tightened Israeli security around Palestinian areas following two suicide bomb blasts in Jerusalem last Wednesday (See story on page 1) (AFP photo)

## New Iran president may face U.S. oil sanctions

DUBAI (R) — Iran's new president, Mohammad Khatami, may soon be thrown into a face-off with the U.S. if Washington enforces sanctions aimed at stifling foreign investment in Iran's vital oil industry.

Iranian oil officials on Monday confirmed an industry report that Canadian energy firm Bow Valley had reached agreement in Tehran to develop Iran's Balal oil field.

Bow Valley's reported deal runs counter to Washington's 1996 Iran Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) which U.S. President Bill Clinton signed as part of a policy to isolate Iran by denying investment to Iran's vital oil industry.

Cyprus-based newsletter Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday that Bow Valley had signed a \$212 million contract with state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on July 29 to develop the offshore field with finance provided by an Indonesian conglomerate.

Under ILSA, Mr. Clinton can select from a menu of punitive sanctions against non-U.S. firms that invest \$40 million or more a year in Iran's oil and gas sector.

Implementation of the Balal deal would be the biggest foreign direct investment in Iran's oil industry since French firm Total signed a grounding \$600 million deal to develop NIOC's and oil and gas fields in 1995, oil industry sources in the Gulf said.

"Balal is not a big field in technical terms but it could become a major turning point for the future of international investment in Iran," said one industry executive in the Gulf.

With 7.5 per cent of global oil reserves and 15 per cent of gas reserves, Iran — the world's third largest exporter behind Saudi Arabia and Norway — is an attractive geological play for international oil firms.

Foreign firms in two consortiums led by Total and the Anglo-Dutch Royal Dutch Shell group have been negotiating for a \$3.5 billion development of Iran's giant south Pars gas field and an award is expected soon.

Tehran offered Balal together with 10 other projects in 1995 in order to alleviate shortages of hard currency. Bow Valley would begin drilling at the 40,000 barrels

## EU envoys to return to Tehran together, or not at all — Kinkel

BONN (AFP) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel warned Iran Monday that the European Union (EU) countries would only send their ambassadors back to Tehran if it agreed not to exclude Germany, with whom relations are tense.

"The German government believes, along with other member states of the (EU), that discrimination regarding the return of the ambassadors is out of the question," Mr. Kinkel said in a statement.

"This is why such a return has not yet taken place," he said, "even if the Iranian leadership clearly wishes for EU ambassadors to come back, as do the Europeans."

EU ambassadors were called home after a Berlin court suggested in a ruling last April that four Iranian leaders were linked to the 1992 murder of top Iranian dissidents in Berlin.

Outgoing Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani announced late Saturday that his country would accept the return of certain EU ambassadors to Tehran, but left Germany out, saying it should withdraw its claims.

Mohammed Khatami, the moderate cleric who was sworn in as Iran's fifth president Monday, pledged meanwhile to strive for "detente" in the Islamic republic's relations with other countries.

per day (bpd) capacity field within 12 to 14 months after the field's wellhead drilling platform was installed, MEES said.

"The Canadian company's success in securing the contract comes as a number of other foreign firms were preparing to submit competitive offers," MEES reported.

So far, Washington has not implemented the terms of the act despite deals between Iran and Turkey, Turkmenistan and a German bank loan to a Iranian firm developing a local oilfield.

The U.S. State Department said in May it was investigating the Balal development after NIOC awarded the deal

to Bow Valley in partnership with a British engineering firm which has since dropped out of the project.

U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a key force behind ILSA, last month warned Bow Valley against carrying out the Balal development saying that "deals such as this violate the letter, as well as the spirit" of the law. The European Union and other countries including Canada have strongly opposed the extra-territorial nature of the act. Mr. Khatami, a 54-year-old Shiite Muslim cleric, was formally sworn into office Monday, sealing his landslide election victory in May.

(see story on page 2)

## Iranian actors rally for new president

TEHRAN (AFP) — Some 100 Iranian actors held a rally here Monday to show support for new President Mohammed Khatami, a former culture minister who has received the backing of many artists, intellectuals and women. The actors and actresses, carrying flowers and cakes, headed from the "Cinema Centre" in central Tehran for 10 Tehran movie houses where crowds applauded them. Outside the Ghod Cinema in northern Tehran, they offered passersby cakes and flowers. Movie stars Davud Rashidi and Ali Reza Khamseh were among those who took part in the rally. Mr. Khatami, a moderate cleric who won a landslide victory in the May presidential elections, was sworn in Monday as Iran's fifth president. In a speech after taking the oath of office, Mr. Khatami said he intended to improve the Islamic republic's image at home and abroad. He also said his administration would "restore civil liberties within the framework of the constitution and Islam" and oppose "any violation of individual rights."

## Julio Iglesias cancels concert in Lebanon over Israeli stamps

BEIRUT (AFP) — Spanish crooner Julio Iglesias has cancelled a concert in Beirut this year because key members of his band had Israeli stamps in their passports, organisers said Monday.

Georges Saadeh, one of the organisers, told Agence France Presse he received a letter from the Spanish artist's office saying that Iglesias will not be able to perform. He was due to hold three shows in Beirut this summer. "Please be advised that due to the continuing U.S. travel ban to Beirut and the existence of Israeli stamps in certain key members of our band and crew, no shows have been scheduled in Beirut during 1997," said the letter.

## Hong Kong police hunt up to 600 boat people from freighter

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong police Monday hunted up to 600 illegal Vietnamese migrants who reportedly came ashore from a freighter. Eleven migrants had been rounded up in the search on the outlying Island of Lantau, a security bureau spokesman said. Radio and television reported that some of those who had been detained told police a freighter laden with as many as 600 migrants had arrived in Hong Kong Sunday night. Most of them jumped ashore in the area of Chek Lap Kok, where Hong Kong's new airport is being built and is the reputed source of work for illegal immigrants, according to their reported testimony.

## AFP launches mobile telephone news service in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Agence France Presse and a French-Lebanese company, Call Moyen Orient (CMO), launched Monday a cellular mobile phone news service, the first in the Middle East. The service provides 24 hours of international, regional and local political, economic and sports news broadcasts in French, English and Arabic. The audio news broadcasts, prepared by a team of six journalists, are accessible by dialling 1414 on cellular telephones of the Libancell and Cellis networks which have a total of 250,000 subscribers in Lebanon.

## Frightened pony rescued from open seas

CABOURG, France (AFP) — Coastguards and fishermen rescued a frightened pony from the high seas off northern France after the animal, scared by a dog on the beach, unsuited its rider and swam out to the deep. It took them 45 minutes using three canoes and a launch to rescue the creature, which was carried by strong currents about one nautical mile (1.852 metres) from the shore off Cabourg late Saturday. "We managed to grab its bridle and it allowed itself to be coaxed back to the beach without any problems," one of the rescuers said Monday.

## Town mayor marries off daughter to artist

REVIQNY, France (AFP) — A French tightrope artist and town official married off his daughter and her fiancé on a high-wire stretched in front of the village hall. The bride and groom, Christine Menin, 27, and Stephane Mallet, a 26-year-old policeman, arrived for the ceremony by bicycle along two parallel wires five metres off the ground. Michel Menin, who is deputy mayor of this village in eastern France, then walked the wire to pronounce the traditional marriage service for his daughter and her betrothed.

## Writer, protesting verdict, slashes himself in court

CAIRO (AP) — A writer protesting a prison sentence imposed for a book ruled as pornographic shouted in court that he would commit suicide, then slashed himself with a razor, police officials said Monday.

The writer, Alaa Hamed, was restrained by guards in the courtroom Sunday. He was treated briefly for cuts around his neck at a hospital and then released, the officials said.

Hamed was sentenced to a year in jail last month after a court ruled that his book, titled "The Bed" and published in 1993, "violates the

values and morals" of the society.

At an appeals court hearing on Sunday, Hamed said that he had "dropped the book from his literary past" and retired from writing altogether.

When the presiding judge asked him whether he would allow his daughter to read the more sexually explicit and insulting passages, Hamed made no response.

Later, while lawyers were debating the case, Hamed took out a razor blade, yelled, "I'll kill myself, and the court will be responsible," and slashed himself.

The court suspended the sentence pending an appeal to Egypt's highest court, the Court of Cassation.

Hamed, a former tax investigator, had legal problems with an earlier book, "Distance In A Man's Mind," published in 1991.

The book, in which God was put on trial, was seen by a state security court as an attack on Islam.

Hamed was sentenced to eight years in prison, but this was commuted to 40 days by former Prime Minister Atef Sidqi.



Goats are passing by as an Israeli bulldozer demolishes a Palestinian home in an east Jerusalem Arab neighbourhood Monday. Three homes in the final stages of construction, went down under the pneumatic hammers sent out after approval from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (see story on page 1) (AFP photo)